



United States Department of the Interior JUL 27 1984

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Smith National Historic Site
P.O. Box 1406
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72902

NPS 112

	Action	Info	Incl	Date
D				
S				
O				
F				
File				

JR Kay 7/31/84

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 25, 1984

Memorandum

To: Gerald Kazmierczak, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Through: Superintendent, Fort Smith National Historic Site *JK*

From: Guy Nichols, Park Technician

Subject: Cherokee Indian Removal Notes

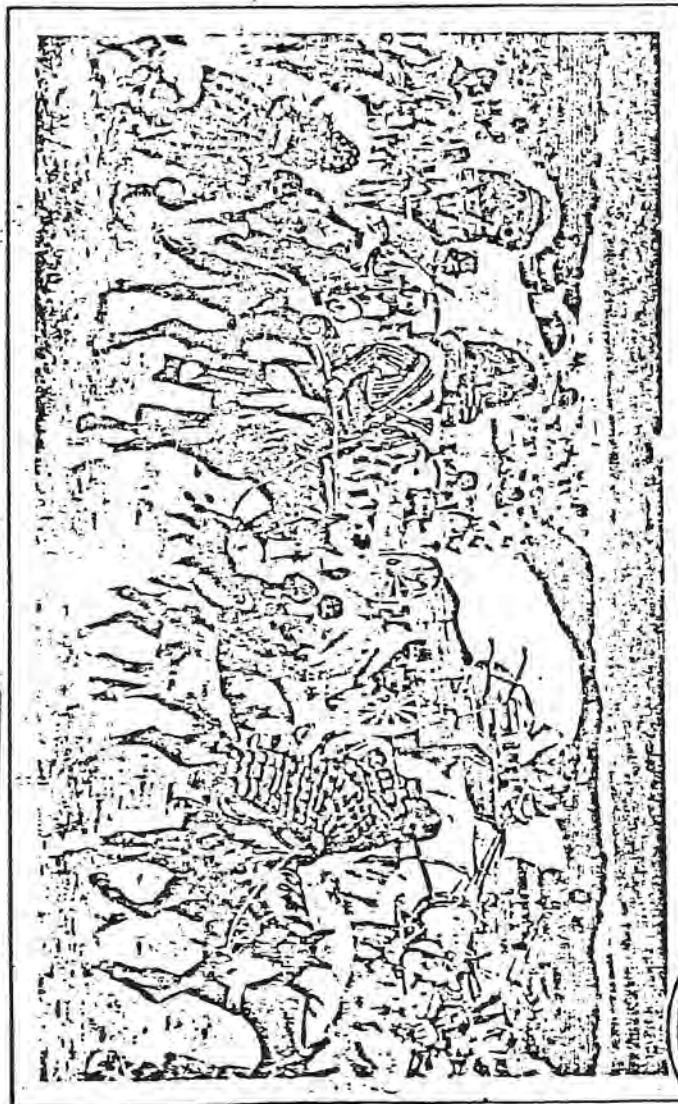
Enclosed are maps with accompanying notes on several of the trails used by the Cherokee Indians during the Indian Removal process. Map #4 shows what has come to be known as the "water route" (March 25, 1838). And Map #10 (October 11, 1838) shows one of the major land routes. The significance of this route is that it closely parallels most of U.S. Highway 64 through Tennessee and Arkansas.

I hope these notes will be of benefit to you and Wally Brittain. If I may be of further help please let me know.

Guy Nichols
Guy Nichols
Park Technician

Enclosures

THE TRAIL OF TEARS



CHEROKEE INDIAN REMOVAL NOTES

BY GUY NICHOLS

CHEROKEE INDIAN REMOVAL NOTES

BY GUY NICHOLS

1829--Georgia State legislature passed an act on December 19, 1829 appropriating most of the Cherokee Nation into the State and after June 1, 1830 all people would come under the state laws. However an Indian or descendant of an Indian shall not be deemed a competent witness in any court of the State to which a white person may be a party.

The Cherokee gold mines now belong to the State. U.S. Government troops were to protect the Cherokees, but because of pressure from the State they were withdrawn.

About the time this was happening a mixed blood Cherokee who had emigrated to Arkansas in 1816 was secretly employed by the Secretary of War to go among his Indian brothers in the East and influence them to move West under the terms of the Treaty of 1828. From time to time small groups did leave Georgia to join the Arkansas Cherokees moving to Oklahoma.

For their transportation seventy Keel or Flatboats were delivered to their agent in 1829 or about the first of 1830. The emigrants boarded the boats at Gunter's Landing. They steered the boats down the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers to Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River where they embarked on steamboats for passage up the Arkansas River to their new home.

August 1830:
The Cherokee agent in Oklahoma reported that 500 Cherokees arrived here this year.

1830: The Indian Removal Bill was passed and all small parties were stopped from leaving for the West. (Georgia, Tennessee, and the Federal Government started fighting the screws to force the Indians to move in large groups.)

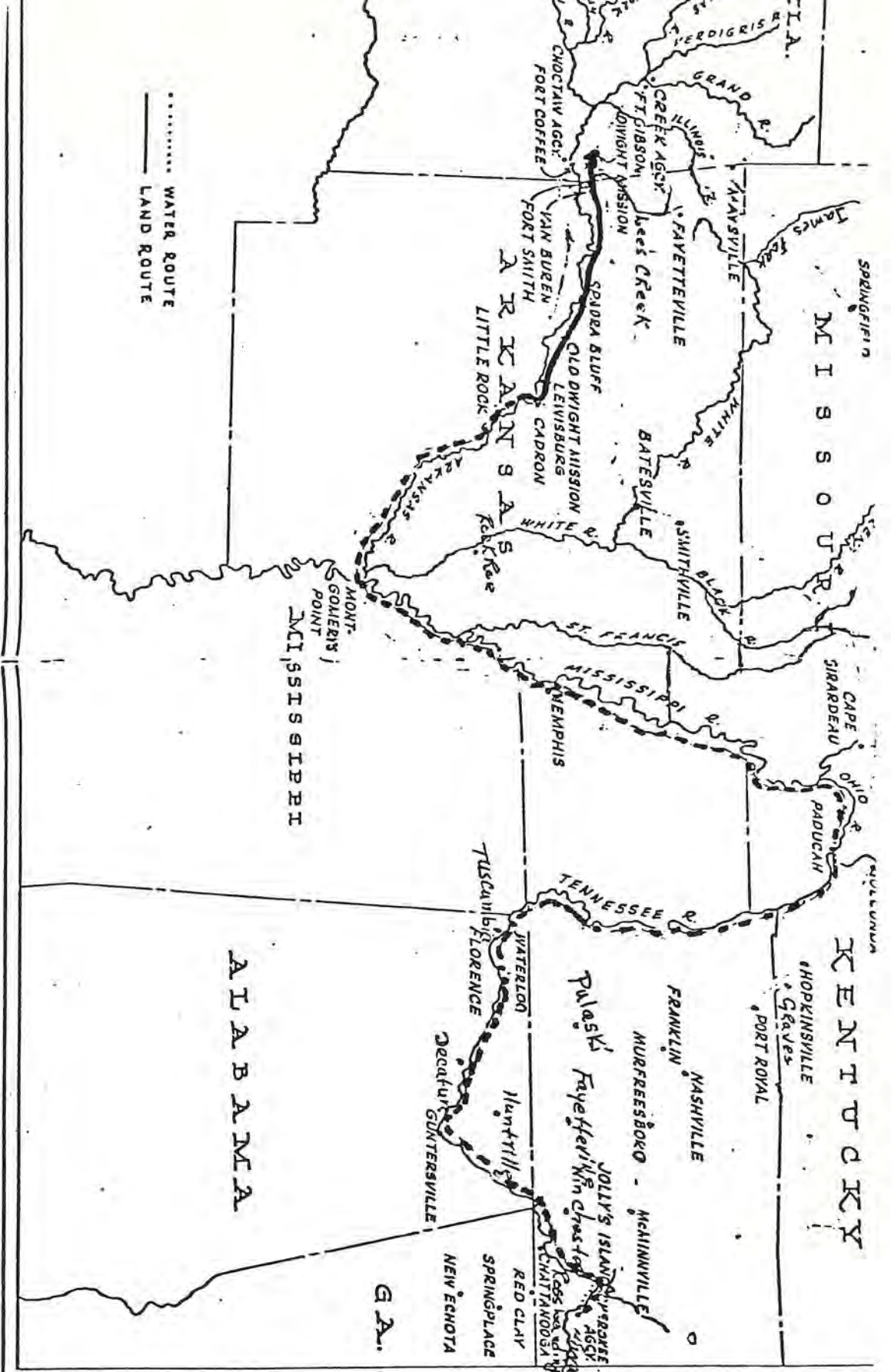
August 1831: The Governor of Georgia thought the State had oppressed the suffering Indians sufficiently to induce them to be glad of the chance to remove.

August 13, 1831: He informs the President; Jackson promptly notified the Cherokee agent to give notice and to enter for enrollment the names of all persons who wished to remove to the West under the provisions of the treaty of 1828.

April 10, 1832: B.F. Currey departed the Cherokee agency at Calhoun with 380 persons in nine flatboats. One week later they arrived at Waterloo, Alabama.

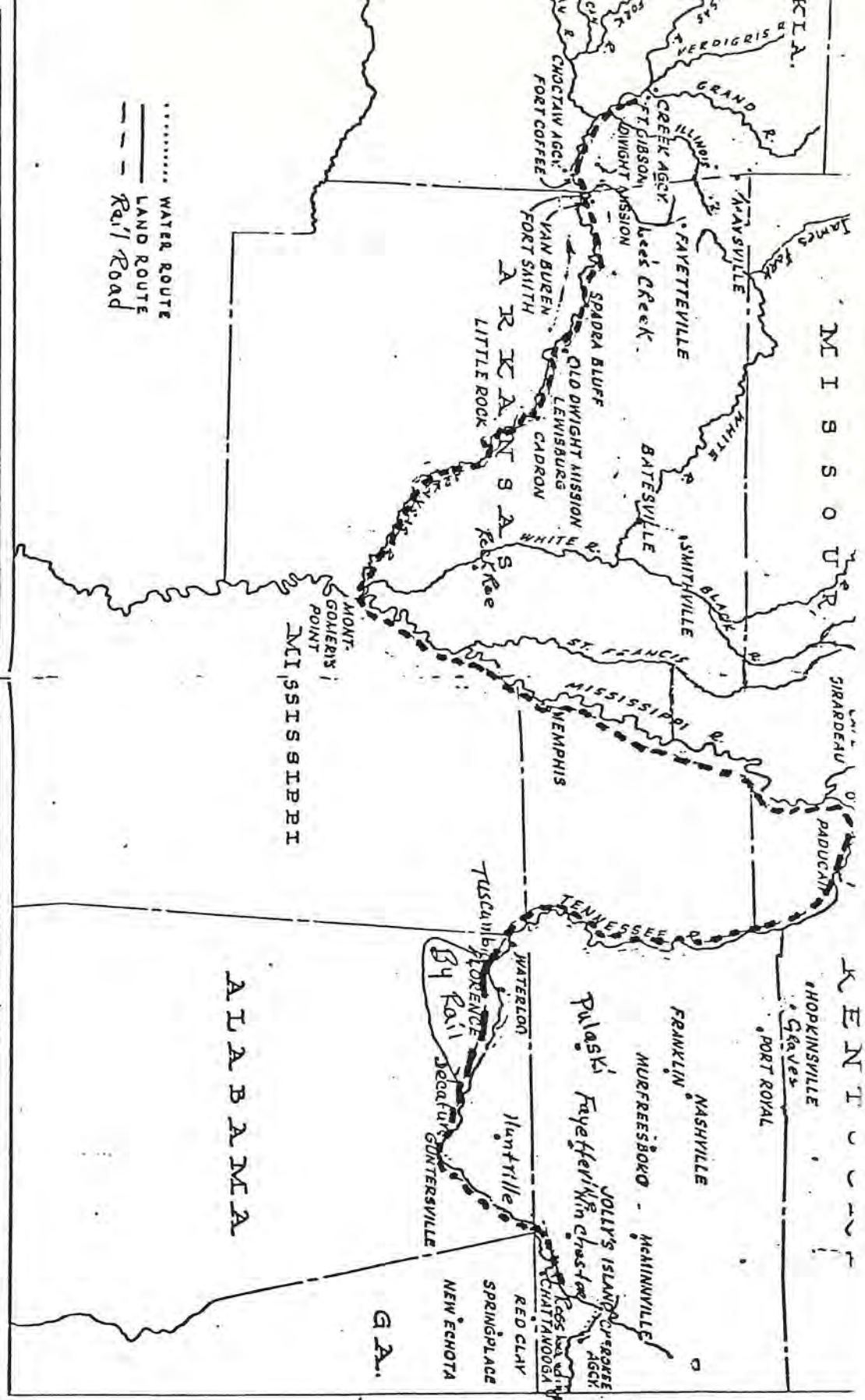
About April 20, they embarked on the Steamboat Thomas Yeatman.

April 30: Arrived at Little Rock, a few days later they were in Oklahoma.



March 13, 1834
 Lieut. J.W. Harris
 Removed under
 Treaty of 1825
 Foreman's Indian
 Removal,
 Page 253

March 13, 1834 at the Cherokee Agency on the Hiwassee River, 72 Cherokee's departed with John Miller in charge (a white man married to a Cherokee Woman.) He was under orders to collect those living along the banks of the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers who were ready to depart. Then wait for Lieut. J.W. Harris and the main body of emigrants. Twenty five miles down stream the fleet overtook Miller's contingent at Brown's Ferry. (Picked up a few people at Creek Path.) March 19, 1834: arrived at Waterloo. (Picked up a few people at Creek Path.) March 24, departed with 457 souls. Picked up 67 more Cherokee's on the Mississippi River. At Montgomery's Point picked up about 200 more. April 6, 1834 arrived at Little Rock. April 7 Departed Little Rock. April 10 arrived at Cadron Creek. Due to low water the party set up camp. (for many of them this was the end) They died. The rest traveled over and from here and arrived at Sallisaw Creek May 10, 1834.



the first party to be moved by the Government under the terms of the treaty of 1835 was March 3, 1837: "One half of whom were children and five Creek Indians."

March 3, 1837: A Party of 466 embarked from Ross Landing in flatboats, traveling in three sections.

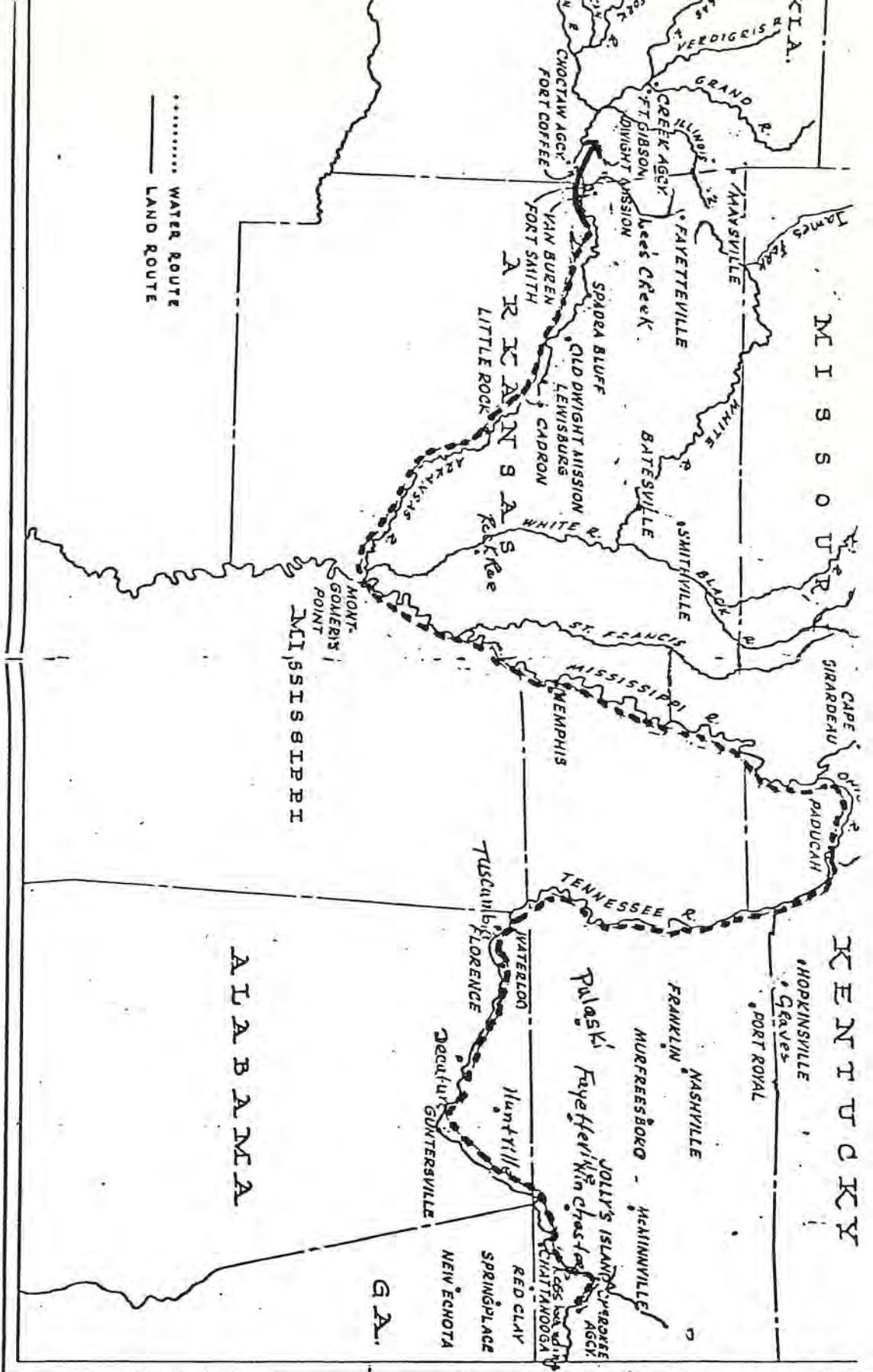
March 6, arrived at Gunter's Landing.

March 7, Embarked on the Steamer Knoxville.

arrived at Decatur, Alabama where they were placed on board open Railroad cars that delivered them to Tuscumbla, Alabama.

- March 14, Departed by Steamboat
- March 15, Passed Paducah, Kentucky
- March 17, Passed Memphis Tennessee
- March 21, Passed Little Rock.
- March 27, Arrived at Van Buren.
- March 28, Reached Fort Smith

MARKED 2,100...
 DR. John S. Young,
 FORKENTONS
 Indian Removal
 TAG, 273-274-
 275-276-277
 and 278.

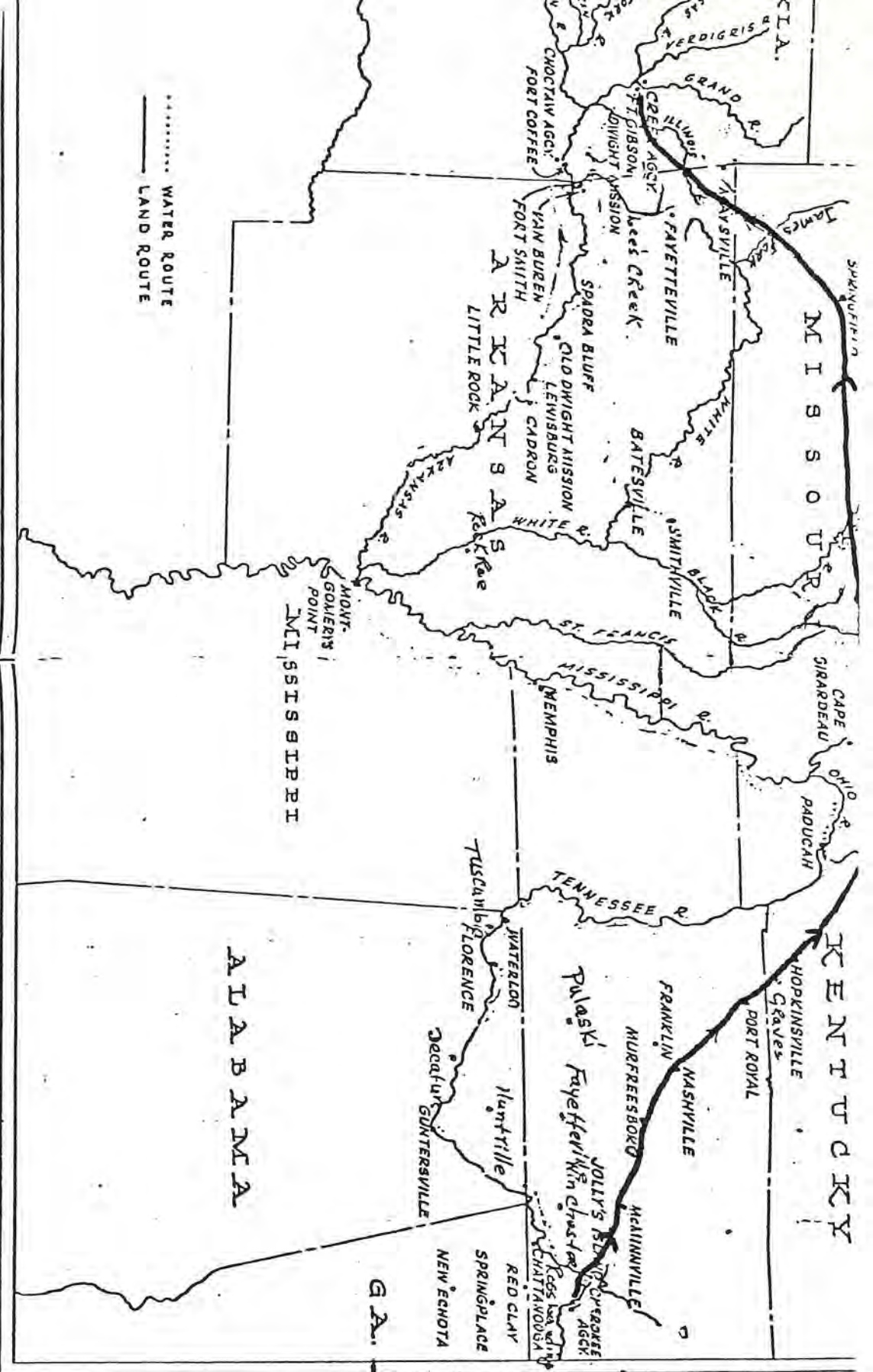


Lieut. Deas
 Foreman's
 Indian Renov
 Page 284, 285

May 23, 1838 had been fixed as the time after which those who refused to leave voluntarily would be removed by force. Lieutenant Smith of Athens, Tennessee had been appointed Superintendent of Removal to succeed B.F. Currey who had died December 16, 1836.

Smith planned to start another party in early spring of 1838. However by March only 250 could be induced to go. March 25, Lieut. Deas and 250 Cherokee's departed for Waterloo. April 5, 1838, embarked aboard the Smelter with Keelboat in tow. Passed Paducah, stopped at Memphis April 9, and arrived at Montgomery's Point. April 11, arrived at Little Rock. Changed boats at Little Rock. April 14, arrived at Lewiston Bar.

week was consumed in trying to cross a succession of bars. The party was landed at McLean's about forty five miles below Fort Smith. The boats were secured. Sixteen Wagons drawn by oxen and one hundred and thirty horses. April 28, arrived at Fort Smith, Arkansas. The party then traveled 25 miles to McCoy's on Sallisaw Creek where they wanted to settle.



B.B. Cannon
 Foreman's
 Indian Reman's
 Page 280

October 14, 1837, B.B. Cannon, Conductor of a party of 365 Cherokees departed the agency. They crossed the Hiwassee River at Calhoun. October 16, arrived at the Tennessee River, spent one day in crossing. Four days crossing the Cumberland mountains.

October 22, Passed McMinnville.

October 25, Passed through Murfreesboro.

October 28, Arrived at Nashville

October 31, Passed Graves Kentucky.

November 1, Passed through Hopkinsville. November 4, Arrived at Berry's Ferry on the Ohio. Crossed into Illinois the next day.

November 11, Passed through Jonesboro and camped in the Mississippi River bottom. November 12, Began crossing the river.

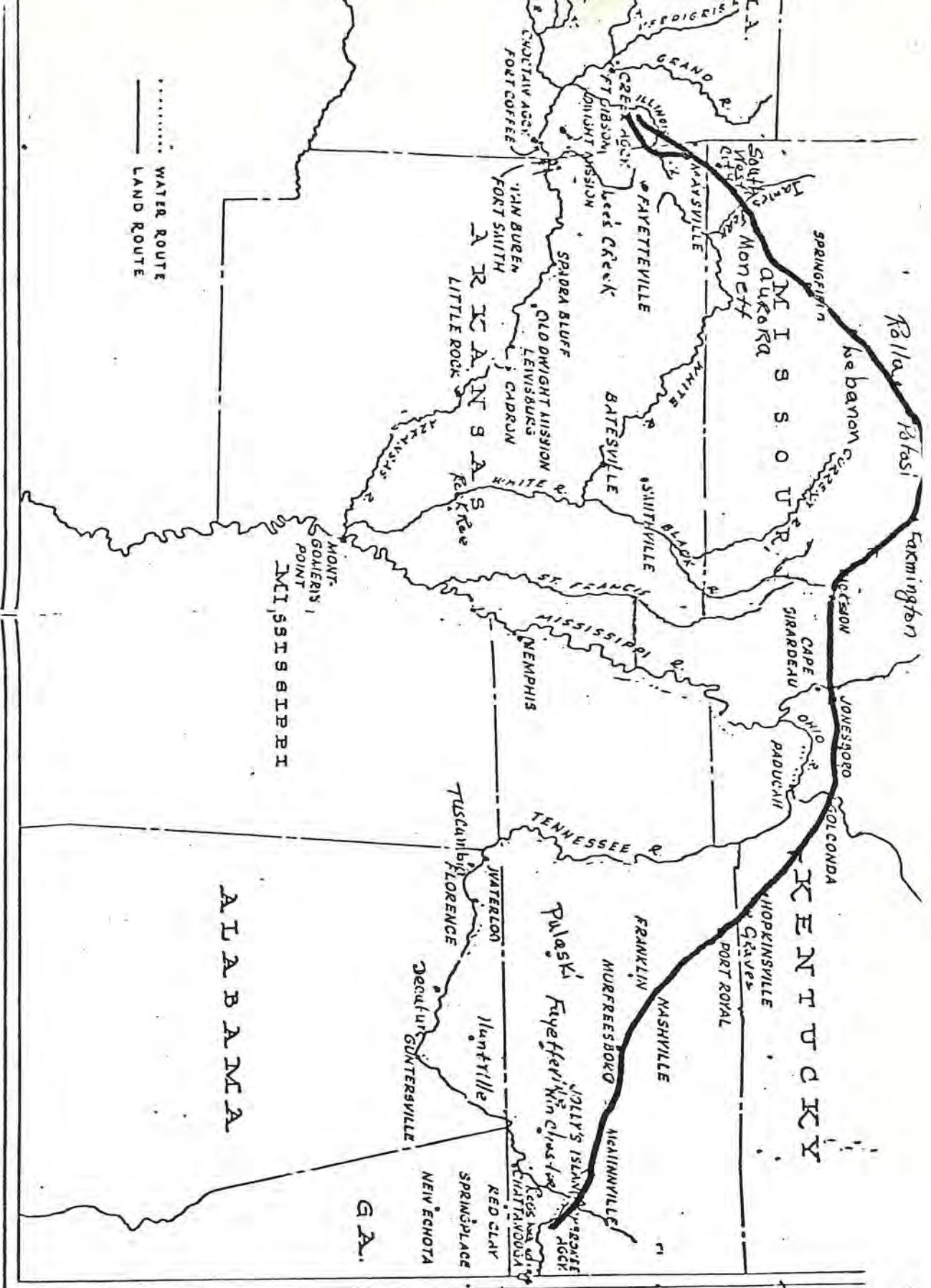
November 14, Departed; passed through Jackson, camped at Widow Roberts on the Road Via Farmington, Passed through Caledonia,

November 16, Passed through diggings, and November 25, arrived at Scott's. Many are too ill to travel. The Doctor treated the sick for about

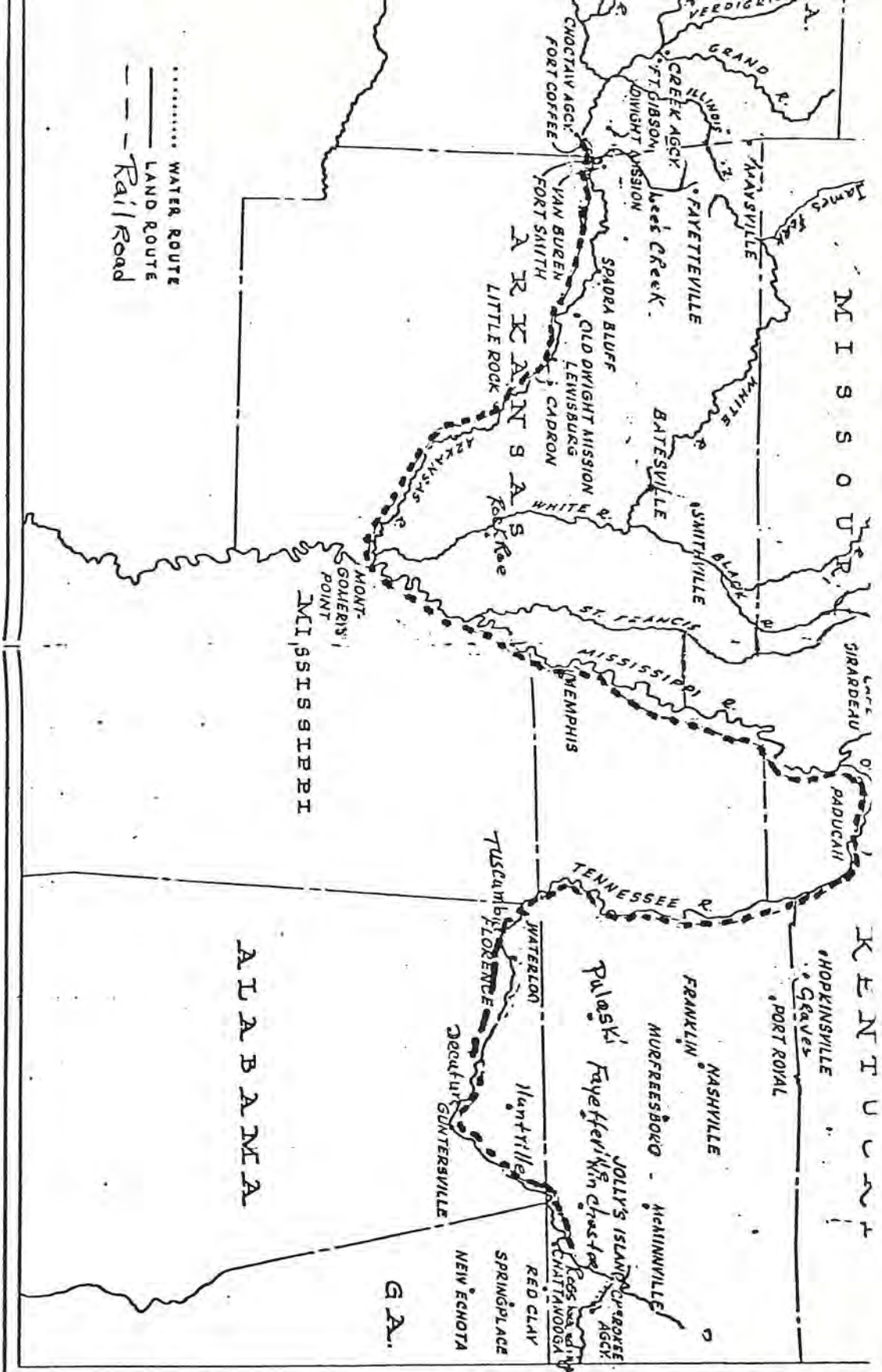
40 days (four died). December 4, 1837, started moving. December 4, passed James Fork of the White River. December 16,

passed through Springfield, Missouri. (Snowing and much colder sickness increasing.) Camped at Dye's for several days. December 21, reached Locke's on Flat Creek. December 26 camped at James Coulters on Cane Hill, Arkansas. December 30, 1837,

from The Cherokees by Grace Steele Woodward, page 216: "after the detachments crossed the Mississippi and, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, threaded their way through Jackson, Farmington, Potosi, Rolla, and Lebanon to Springfield, a small town in the southwestern part of Missouri," the emigrants traveled in a southwesterly to their destination "Aurora, Monett, and present day Southwest City, Missouri. Some of the people would enter Cherokee Country via Rogers, Springdale, Fayetteville, and Prairie Grove, Arkansas.



Route given
by: Grace
Steele Woodward
in The Cherokees
Page 216

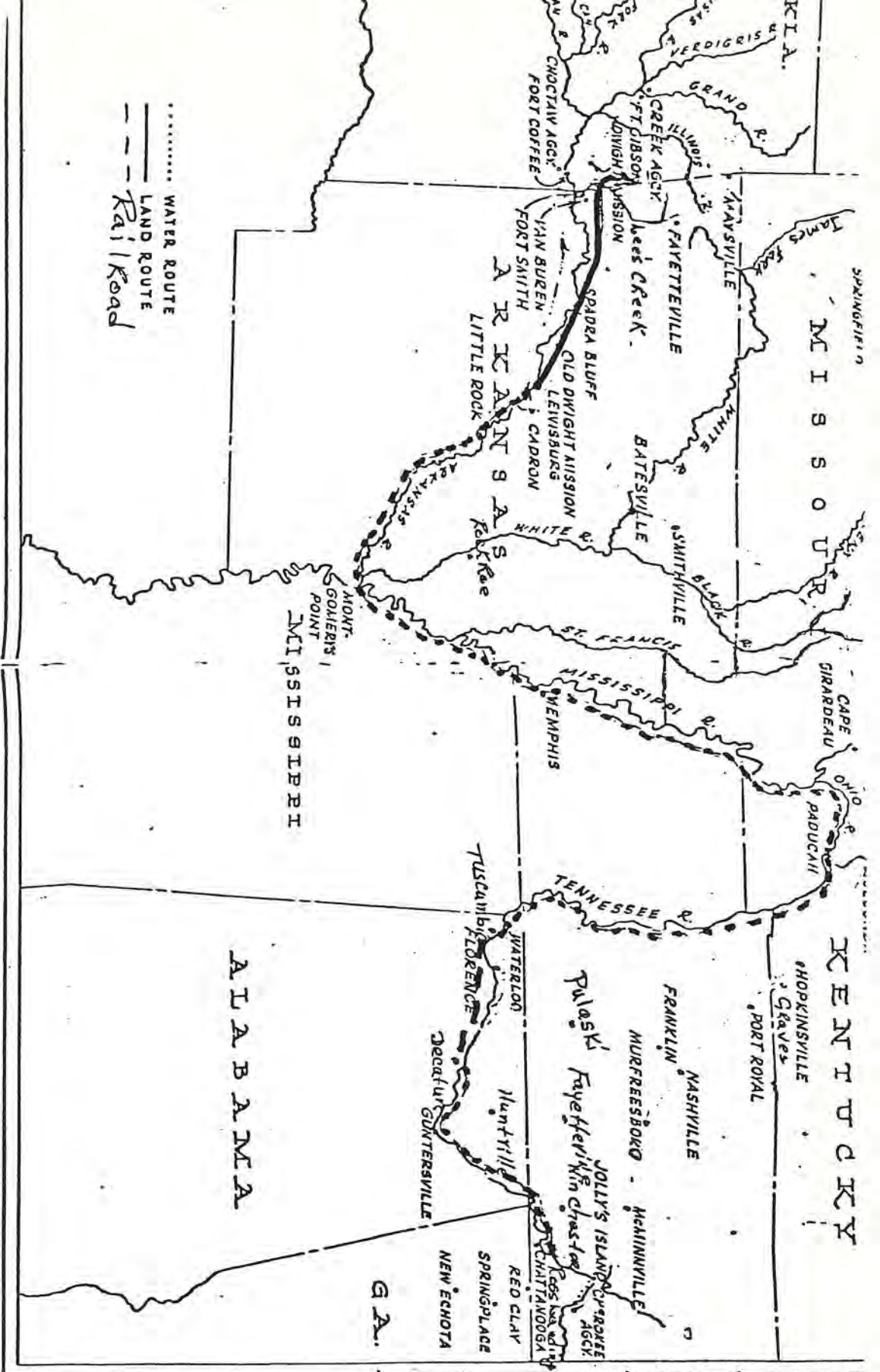


Lieut. Deas
 Foreman's
 Indian Removal
 Page 296, 297
 and 298

The Forced Removal Began

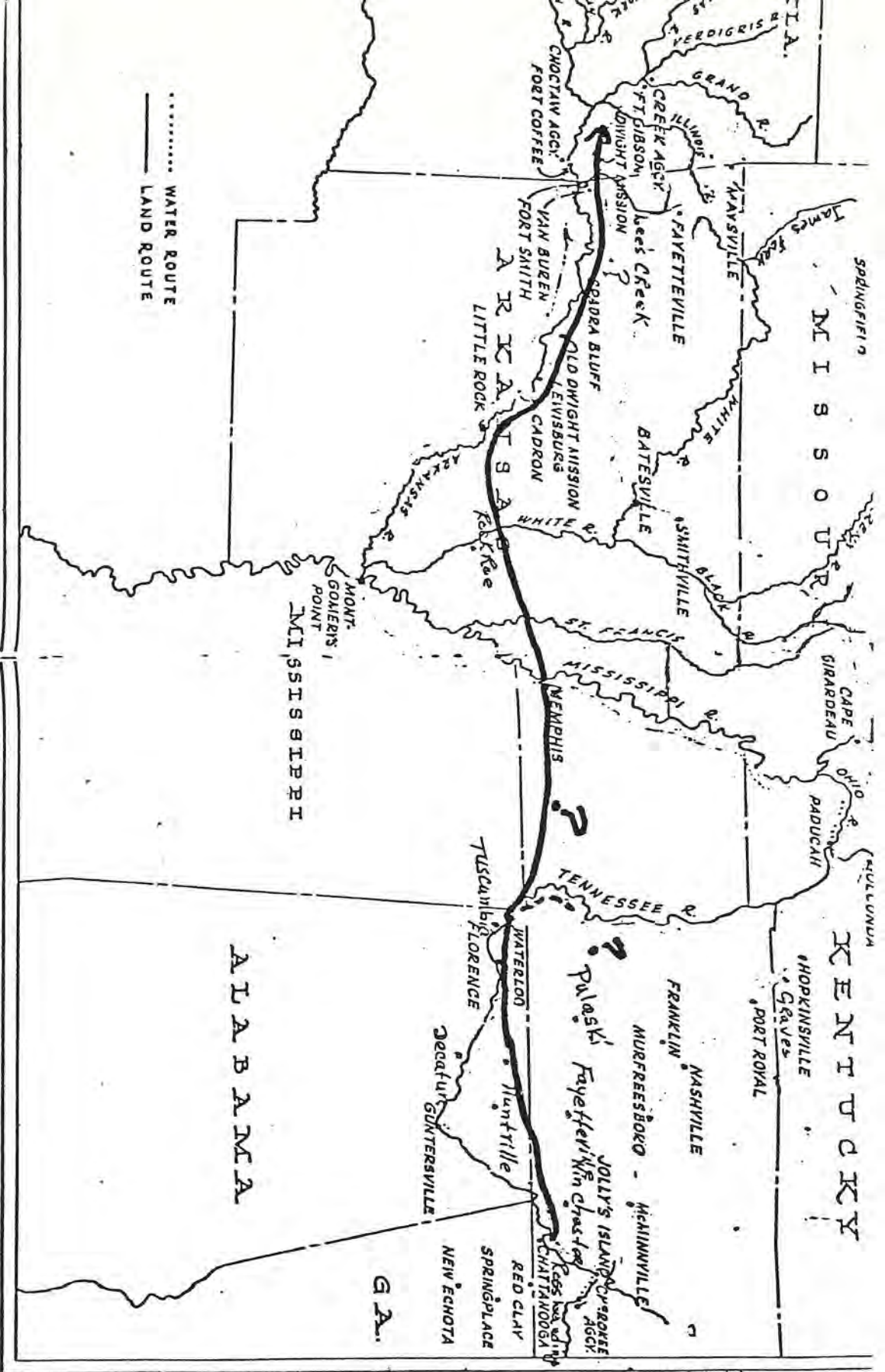
y in June about 5,000 Persons were prepared for removal by troops. Part were taken to the old agency, on the Hiwassee
 (at Present Calhoun Tennessee); and Ross's Landing (Now Chattanooga); and Gunter's Land (Now Guntersville, Alabama)
 r down the Tennessee River, to be embarked upon boats.

e 6, 1838, the first party forcibly placed on the boats departed with Lieut. Deas in charge. There should have been 800
 le, however when they arrived at Paducah Kentucky there were only 489. June 9, arrived at Decatur, transferred to
 road cars for passage to Tusculumbia, where they were embarked on steamboats.
 e 19, 1838, arrived at Fort Coffee there had been no deaths.



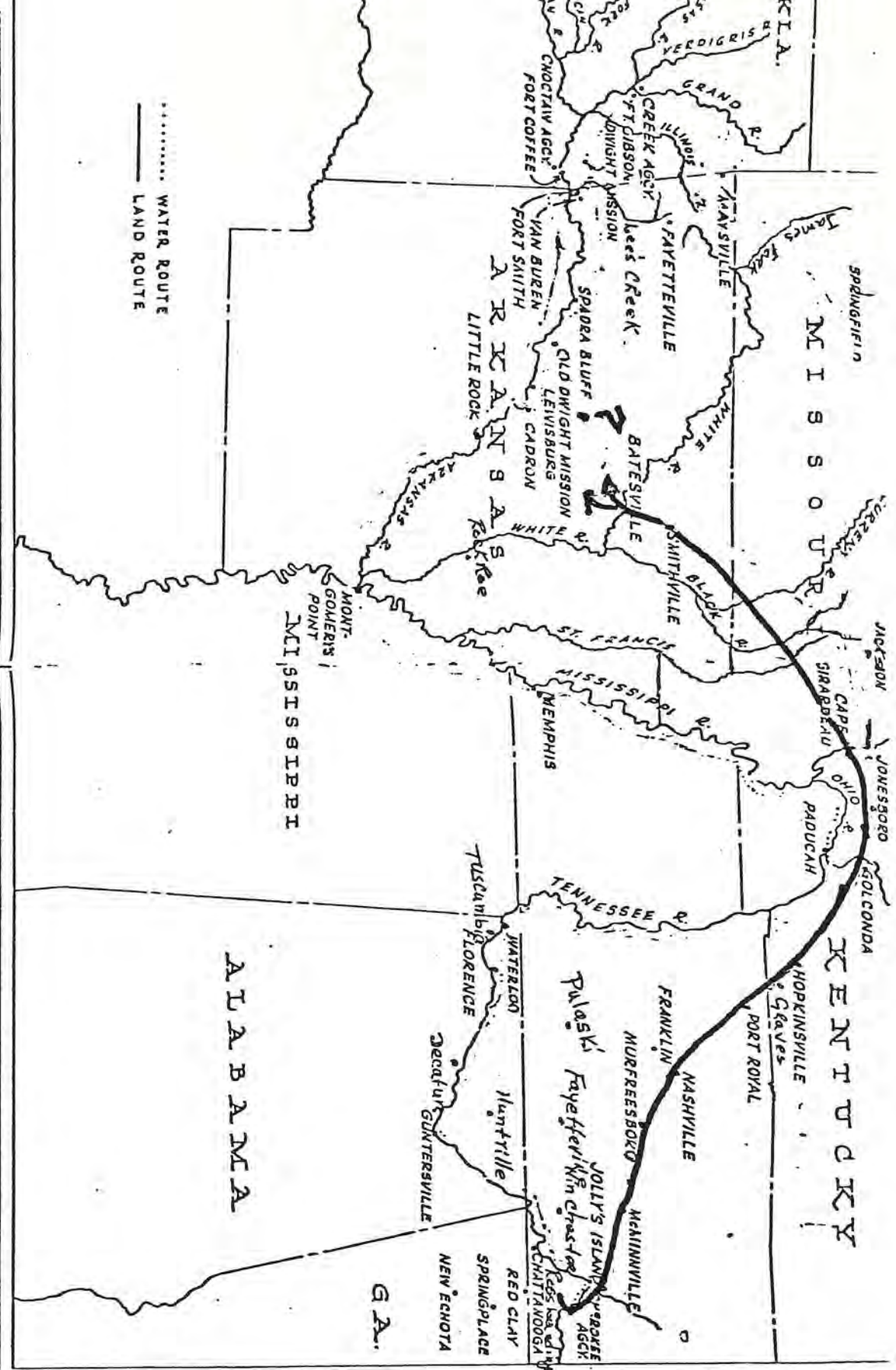
June 13, 1838, Lieut. Whiteley with 875 Cherokee's departed Ross Landing.
 June 20, arrived at Decatur, they were transported by Rail to Tuscumbia.
 June 28, Camped at Waterloo.
 June 30, arrived at Paducah
 July 4, Arrived at Montgomery's Point
 July 12, Steamboat ran aground on Benson's bar at Lewisburg. The rest of the trip was overland on the Northside of the river.
 August 1, 1838 Camped at Lee's Creek, later moved to near the head of Lee's Creek.

June 13, 1838
 Lieut. Whiteley
 Foreman's Indian
 Removal - Tag
 294



June 17, 1838--1,070 Captive Cherokees departed from Ross Landing in wagons and on foot for Waterloo where they were to be embarked on boats. (Bellefonte should be about 25 miles west of Ross Landing.) Many of this party deserted. Capt. Drane of the U.S. Army called out 30 citizen volunteers to accompany him to Waterloo. August 12 Capt. Drane and his party were still at Waterloo. (Foreman or Woodard are not clear on what happened to this party. However from a statement by Foreman on Page 299 they may have continued overland).

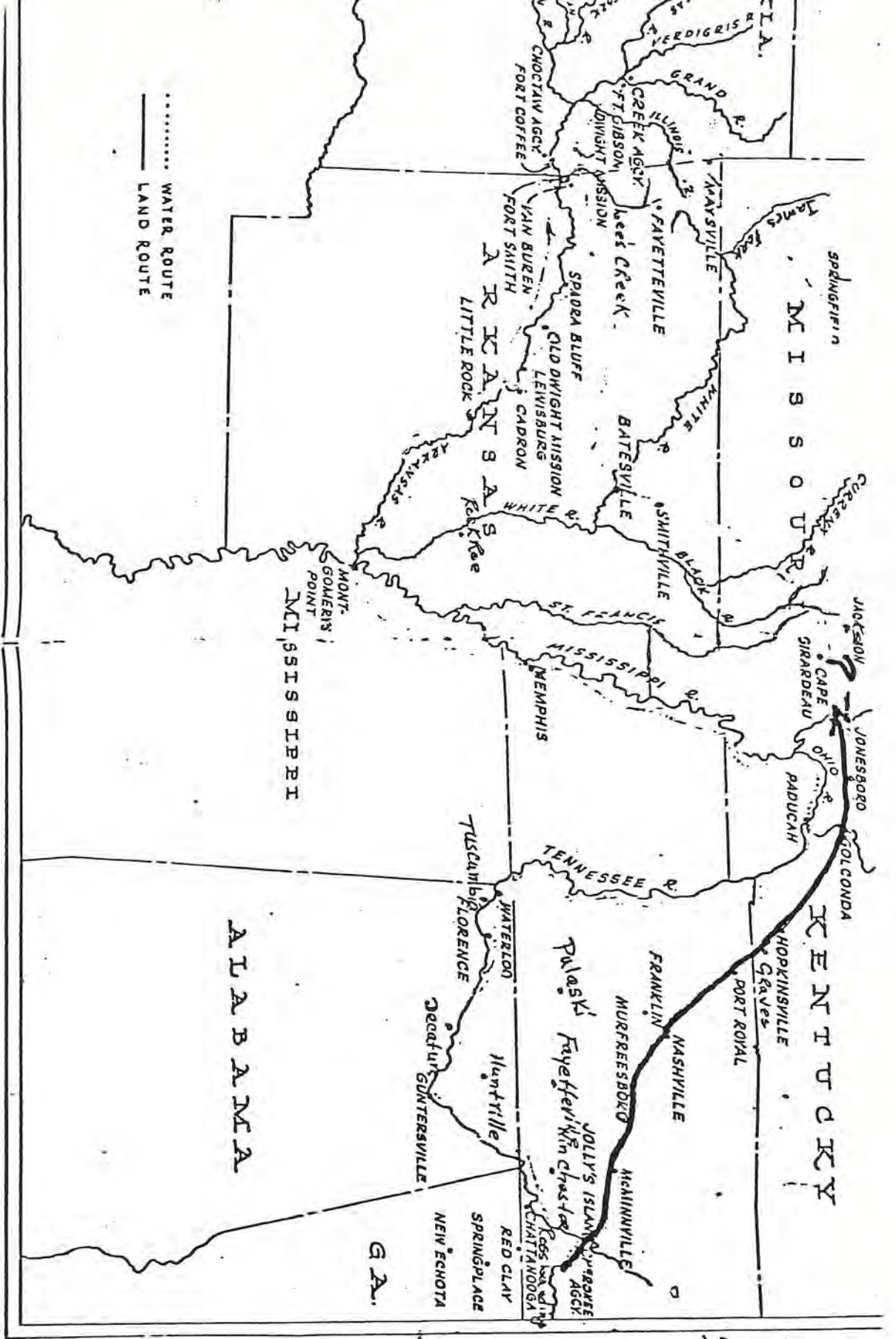
June 17, 1838
 Capt. Drane
 Foreman's
 Indian Removal
 Page 296-299



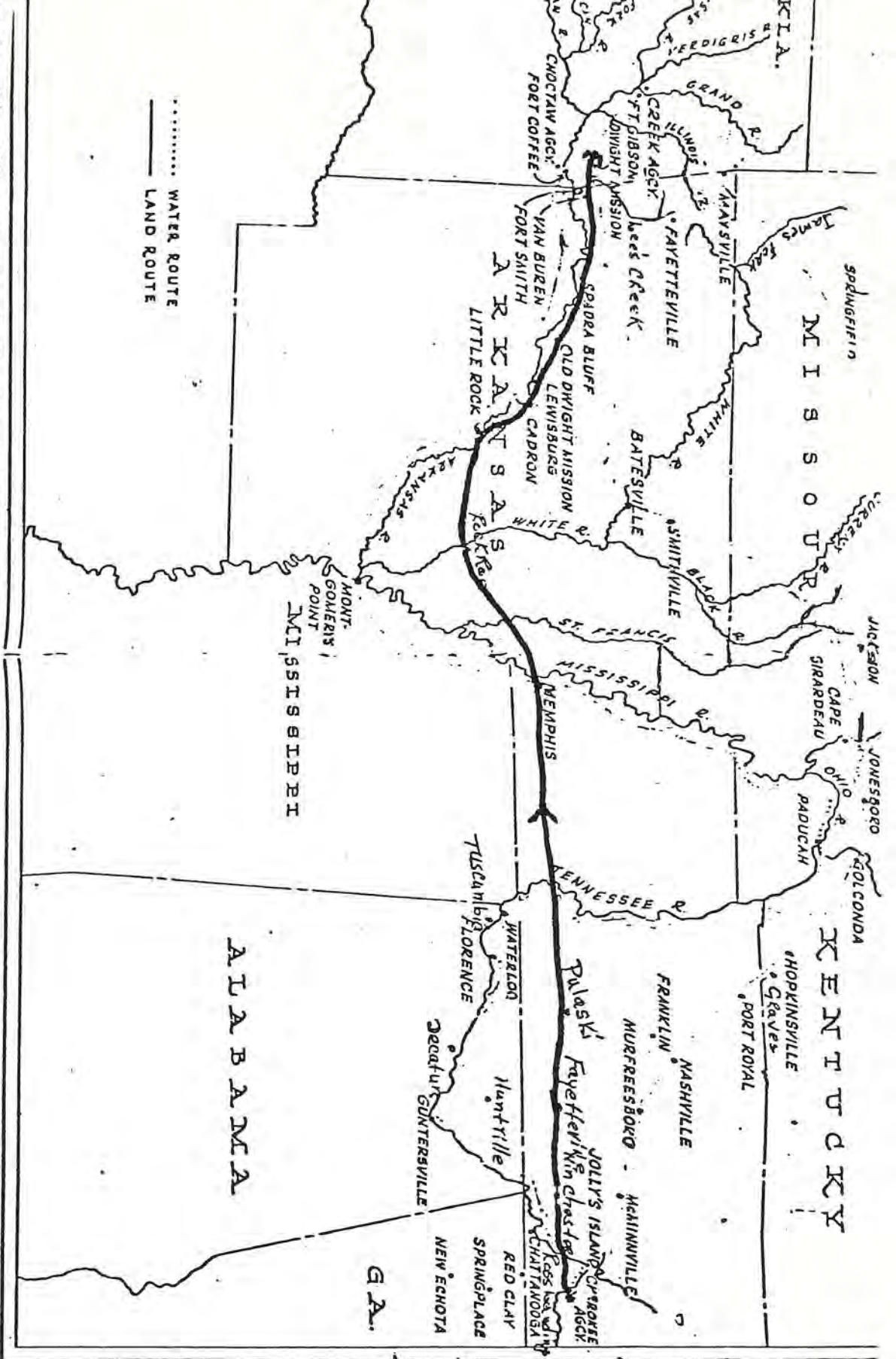
October 1,
1838;
John Benge,
Foreman
Page 301-302

June 19, 1838 General Scott agrees to let the Cherokee's conduct their removal in the fall. However they would be kept under Military guard in their concentration camps. October 1, 1838: John Benge departed with first party moving on their own. They started from Rattlesnake Springs, or Charleston, Tennessee crossing to the North side of the Hiwassee River at a ferry above Gunstocker Creek. They proceeded down along the River. They crossed the Tennessee River at Tucker's Ferry(?) a short distance above Jolly's Island at the mouth of the Hiwassee River. Their route lay south of Pikesville, through McMinnville and on to Nashville. December 15 they passed near Batesville, Arkansas. (Arkansas Gazette December 20).
 January 10, 1839 arrived at their new home.
 2004 people started 1,103 arrived with 645 wagons, 5,000 horses, and a large number of oxen.
 Note: Foreman or Woodard do not give a route from Batesville. At that time of the year, I think they came south of the Boston Mountains.

October 4, 1838: Elijah Hicks and party started:
 November 16, arrived at Nashville, November 24, Hicks reported from Port Royal near the Kentucky line (they were
 the first to reach there). A few days later they were near Hopkinsville, Kentucky.
 January 4, 1839 they arrived in Indian Country.
 58 started, 744 arrived; 34 deaths and 5 births. They brought along Forty Wagons and 430 Horses.

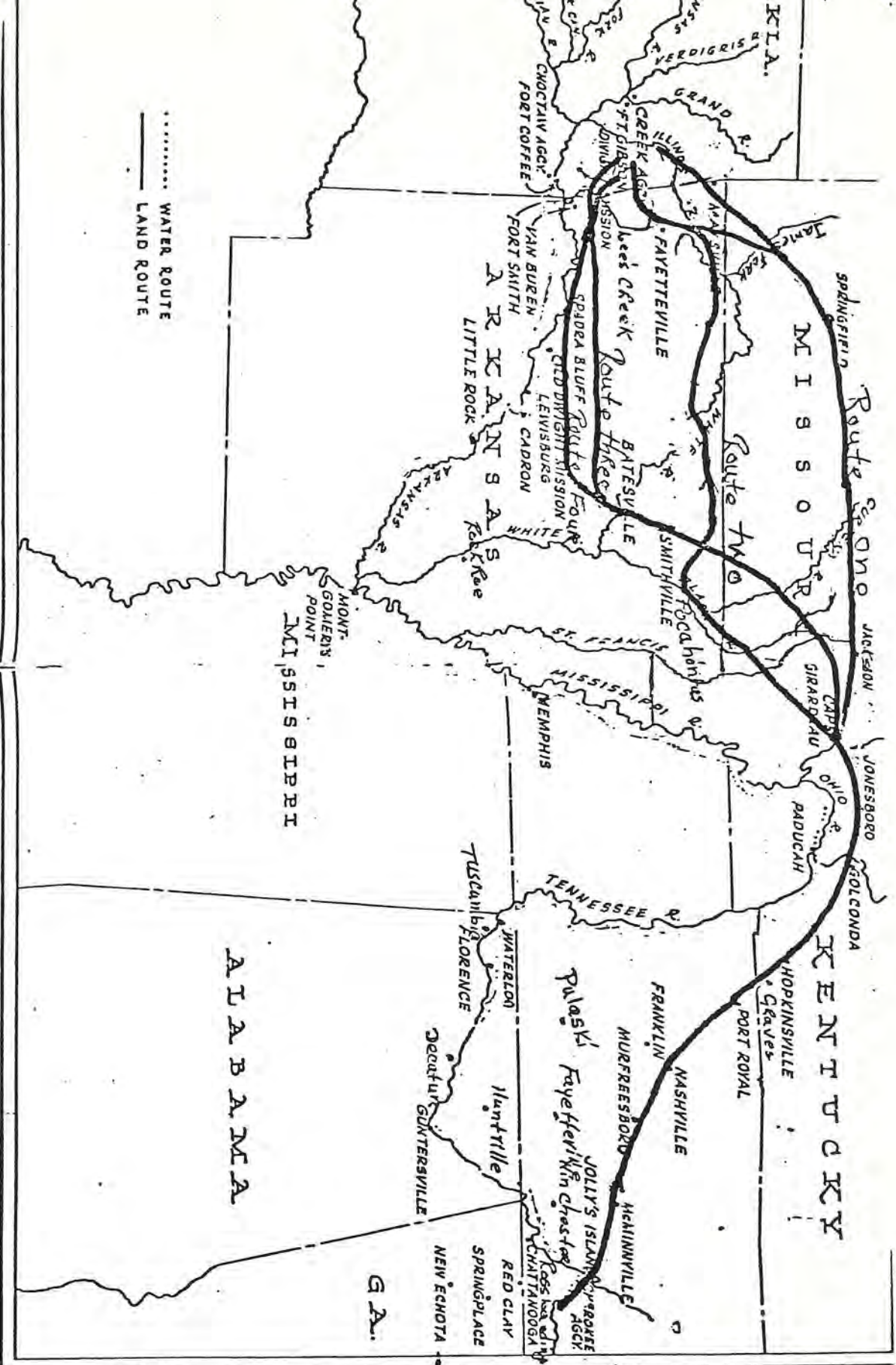


OCT. 4, 1838
 Elijah Hicks
 Foreman
 Page 302,
 and 303.



October 11, 1838 a party of the treaty faction who refused to emigrate under the leadership of John Ross left the vicinity of the agency under the direction of Lieut. Deas. October 27, Deas reported from Winchester, Tennessee. The Party numbers 650-700 persons...". They passed through Fayetteville, Tennessee November 7 and arrived at Pulaski. November 24 - the group finished crossing the Mississippi River at Memphis. December - arrived at Little Rock. January 7, 1839 - Reach their new home; 858 started, 654 arrived.

Oct 11, 1838
 Lieut Deas
 Foreman
 Page 301



Route One: Reference Foreman's Indian Removal
 Route Two: Reference (a) Map of Arkansas 1799-1885 by Steve Cox. (b) Map Roads, Old Trails, Traces and Historical Places of Arkansas. By Michael A. Hedges.
 Route Three: Foreman, Cox, and Hedges, this route is across the top of the Boston Mountains.
 Route Four: Reference Arkansas Historical Quarterly Vol. 8, 1949. By Ted R. Worley, History Department Arkansas State Teacher College. (This would have been a much better Route.)

to the Indian Territory.

The Indians native to the region were pushed to the west, and as early as 1820 none were left around Batesville. The town did, however, have some experience with the Cherokees, some of whom passed by Batesville in 1838. A party of these Indians, which left Gunter's Landing on the Tennessee River, about thirty-five miles above Huntsville; Alabama, on October 10, 1838, and consisting of about 1200 people when it reached Arkansas, was reported at Smithville in Lawrence County on December 12. William Byers himself was at Smithville at the time and wrote the report to the *News*. Byers described them as being in excellent condition—except that measles and whooping cough were killing about four per day. The Indians passed near Batesville December 15, 1838, and many of them came through the town to have horses shod and carriages repaired. The *News* reported many of the Indians barefooted. About fifty had died since leaving Alabama. This second account of the Cherokees was written by G. W. Morris, a Methodist preacher, who had been a missionary to the Cherokees in 1826, and had taught school among them. Morris praised them for their soberity, culture, and religiosity.⁴⁷

In conclusion it is best to sum up Batesville and its future as it appeared to C. F. M. Noland in 1839. It should be recalled that he was writing in the midst of an economic depression aggravated by the banking chaos and by the drouth of the previous year, but like the typical pioneer that he was, he was living in the future. He headed the piece with "Our Little Village" and wrote as follows:

It may savor of vanity to speak of our little village, but so rapid has been its improvements, that we cannot forbear a few words. House after house has gone up—a Bank, a Church, and an Academy are all "being built". We have a fine Female Academy, with Mr. and Mrs. Hunt at the head of it, and we are pleased to learn that their school is quite full. They are a great ac-

⁴⁶October 17, 1839.

⁴⁷December 20, 1838. An account of this party of Cherokees is given in Grant Foreman, *Indian Removal*, 308-309, and according to Foreman the party moved from Batesville to the southwest through Van Buren County and Pope County, thence to Oklahoma (Map opposite 394).

Note →

101. 14 Oct. 1955

gained the respect of the older lawyers in Fayetteville where he practiced and of those on the circuit who knew him.

The years 1838-1842 were, by his own estimate, tragic ones for Arrington. A series of events not related to each other but all involving him began in the summer of 1838 when a band of Cherokee Indians passed through the little mountain-bound county seat village of Fayetteville on their way to the Indian Nation. It was a Sunday afternoon and all saloons were closed except that of the brothers Willis and Riley Wallace. The Indians crowded around and into the Wallace "grocery," bought a barrel of whiskey, knocked the head out, and helped themselves with gourds and dippers, with a sort of bucket brigade passing the liquor to those on the fringe of the crowd. Soon the streets swarmed with drunken Cherokees. An Indian woman was insulted, and a fight began in which Willis Wallace killed Nelson Orr, an Indian. Wallace escaped the angry Cherokees and fortified himself in his home. Indians crowded around him and threats were heard of burning the town if Wallace did not surrender. Wallace was persuaded by his friends to leave town.¹¹ He was acquitted of a murder charge in the May term of court, 1839.

Excitement over the Wallace-Orr affair was still high when on the night of June 15, 1839, in the Cane Hill community of Washington County, William Wright and four of his children were murdered.¹² A group of citizens, without confidence in the law, took matters in their own hands. They organized a Committee of Investigation, with Andrew Buchanan chairman, and a military company with Mark Bean as captain. The military company functioned as the police arm of this pseudo-government. Not only suspects but every citizen in the vicinity of Cane Hill was required to prove an alibi.

Suspicion settled on William Bailey, John Richmond, Thomas Jones, Ellery Turner, and James Barnes. All proved alibis to the satisfaction of the Committee, but a minority was unconvinced of Bailey's innocence, and this minority tortured Bailey in an effort to extract a confession. He did

¹¹J. H. Rhea, *Thirty Years in Arkansas and Other Lectures* (Cedar Rapids, 1896), 26; Alfred W. Arrington, *Duelists and Duelling in the South-West with Sketches of Southern Life* (New York, 1847), 41-42.

¹²Batesville Arkansas News, July 4, 1839; Arkansas Gazette, July 31, 1839.

Nine contingents left at intervals through October 1838 and four during the next month. However, neither Foreman nor Woodward gives a starting date or route after the Elijah Hicks party. We might assume they all followed the same Route to the Mississippi River.

Foreman lists the following group leaders and arrival dates: January 16, 1839 - Daniel Cotton with 651;

Rev. Evan Jones, October 16, 1838 traveled sixteen miles, camped at McMinnville for several days to rest, arrived at the Mississippi River but could not cross for several days because of the ice on the River. The Bushyhead and Rev. Stephen Foreman's groups came up and camped with them.

December 30, 1838, from Little Prairie, Missouri, Jones reported they had been on the road for seventy five days.

February 2, 1839 they arrived at their new home in Oklahoma.

Rev. Jesse Bushyhead's party held a council at McMinnville, October 31, 1838 and reported on the sick, arrived at the Mississippi River before December 30, but were held up for a month because of ice on the River.

February 23, 1839 arrived in Indian Country.

Rev. Stephen Foreman's party arrived at the Mississippi River before December 30, 1838. February 27, 1839 they arrived at their new home.

March 1, 1839 Choowalooka's party arrived in the Indian Country.

March 2, 1839 Mose Daniel's party arrived.

March 5, 1839 James Borwn's party arrived.

March 14, 1839 George Hicks arrived with the last overland party of leave Tennessee. They had started November 4, 1838, and passed through Nashville December 2, 1838.

At last their destination was reached. It was March 1839 the journey having occupied nearly six months of the hardest part of the year. Some of those whom sickness had prevented from emigrating by land with the main body, were in a party of 228 that came by Steamboat.

John Ross and his family were in this party. They arrived at Little Rock in February 1839. Mrs. Ross died while they were there, and was buried in a little cemetery at Little Rock.

Note: Grace Steele Woodward in her book The Cherokees, has the Ross party traveling overland to Paducah Kentucky.