

## The Trail Of Tears 1838

Batesville News

Dear Jordon,--I am yet at this place, awaiting "the troubling of the waters." We have disposed of all the cases on the docket, and are ready to take up our line of march for Randolph county, if the Grand Jury were disposed of. It is rumored that they will show us the results of their labors on the morrow morning, at which time we expect to hear, that that body, upon due deliberation, have come to the solemn conclusion that one of their fellow citizens have helped himself to a few pounds of his neighbors' bacon, "contrary to the form of the statute in such cases, made and provided." If such should be the case, we may be detained a few days longer.

About twelve hundred Indians passed through this place yesterday, many of them appeared very respectable. The whole company appear to be well clothed, and comfortably fixed for traveling. I am informed they are very peaceable, and commit no depredations upon any property in the country through which they pass. They have upwards of one hundred wagons employed in transporting them; their horses are the finest I have ever seen in any collection. The company consumes about one hundred and fifty bushels of corn per day.

It is stated that they have the measles and whooping cough among them, and that is an average of four deaths per day. They will pass through Batesville in a few days.

I have no news of any importance to send you--nothing out of the ordinary course of things have transpired in this place, since I last wrote you.

W.B.

### Cherokee Indians

On the 13 inst., a detachment of Cherokee Indians passed through Batesville, Independence, Mo., Ark., on their way to their new home in the "far west." Many of them came through town to get their carriages repaired, horses shod, and etc.

The following are the principal among them: John Benge, Conductor; Geo. Lowery, Assistant Dr.; Dr. W.F. Rawles, of Gallatin, Tenn. Surgeon and Physician, W.S. Coady, Contractor.

They left Gunter's Landing, on Tennessee River, about 35 miles from Huntsville, Ala., in October, since which time, owing to their exposure to the inclemency of the weather, and many of them destitute of shoes, and other necessary articles of clothing, about 50 of them

### EDITORIAL

Another issue in the series of the Smithville area history has been written by Mrs. Dula McLeod Baker and there is more to come. We are sure many of the Quarterly readers are familiar with the families, churches and schools Mrs. Baker writes about and will enjoy recalling incidents they enjoyed in that community.

have died.

In the years of 1826-27, the writer of this brief notice labored among those Indians, as a Missionary; and truly, he found them to be an interesting people, ripe for the Gospel. He taught a mission school five days in the week, and preached on Saturdays and Sundays. Many were converted to the Christian faith, and for five months at a time, such was the exemplary piety of those who had professed religion, and such was the influence of the Gospel upon those who did not openly profess it, that he never saw a drunken man, nor heard an oath sworn, nor heard of a quarrel or fight in the neighborhood, on the Sabbath day.

Several other missionaries of different Denominations, were laboring with them and for them, in different parts of the nation, at the same time. Thousands of them gave every necessary evidence of converting grace, and sometimes, scores professed religion at one meeting, and unlike many others, they were not deterred by the distance of a few miles, from attending the preaching of the Gospel. If they could have regular preaching within ten or twelve miles of them, they felt they were highly favored. Many times they were seen, from the hoary headed sire and matron, down to the little boys and girls, vading through the mud and swamps for miles, to hear what the Great Spirit would say to them, through the instrumentality of the missionary.

Many large and flourishing societies, and schools were gotten up among them. They had a Printing Press of their own, from which a weekly paper, called "The Cherokee Phoenix," was issued for some years, and edited by a native Cherokee. They also had a great part, if not the whole, of the New Testament translated into their own language. Indeed, no aboriginal tribe of Indians in North America, were tending faster toward civilization, than the Cherokees.

But in the difficulties between them and the Georgians, and the General Government, the Georgians, I am credibly informed, destroyed their press; and the turbulence of the times had the unhappy tendency to break up their schools, dissolve their societies, and produce a state of general confusion and distress; so that many of them who had professed faith in Christ, measured back their steps to earth again. Many others, however, still hold on their way, and say, "they seek a home in heaven." May the Great Disposer of events overrule every thing for their good, and may they be prosperous and happy.

O Jesus the Cherokees save,

And bring them at last to their rest;

And when they shall leave the cold grave,

May they be found with the blest.

G. W. Morris

Batesville, 18th Dec. 1838

Plans to commemorate 'Trail' set  
Hope Star -- January 23, 1986

**FORT SMITH (AP)** Plans to commemorate the path across nine states taken by the Cherokee forced off the lands by the U.S. Government in the 19th century may be completed by the late summer, officials say.

A National Park Service spokesman said at a hearing Tuesday that the plans to incorporate the "Trail of Tears" into the national historic trail system should be ready to submit to Congress by year's end. No one appeared for another hearing that was to be held Wednesday night in Tahlequah, Okla., where the trail concludes. The trail begins in Murphy, N.C.

The Trail of Tears refers to the routes traveled by 15,000 Cherokee between June 1838 and March 1839. Initially, three groups were transported from Ross's Landing near Chattanooga, Tenn., along the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to Fort Gibson, Okla.

Thirteen other groups moved overland from Rattlesnake Springs near Charleston, Tenn., through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas to Tahlequah, Okla.

Thomas Jefferson first proposed moving the southern Indians west of the Mississippi in 1802. Throughout the years, white settlers had encroached on Indian lands and had demanded title. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act.

Between 1830 and 1832, all but the Cherokee had signed treaties and moved west. The Cherokee twice asked the Supreme Court to prohibit the move. A minority faction, speaking for the Cherokee tribe, signed removal treaty in 1835 and moved west.

In 1837 and 1836, government soldiers moved the Cherokee into stockades and then forced them west. Hundreds died along the Trail of Tears.

Routes used during then forced removal and were studied under the auspices of the National Trails System Act of 1968, which was amended in 1968, which was amended in 1976 to include historic trails.