

earthly loved one goes comforting with him; but leaving his devoted wife, his doting kindred and his sincere friends, he travels to that bourne whence no visitor e'er returns.

"Though cut in the bloom and pride of life, though the tears now dropping o'er his grave and through the midnight watches are the bitterest man ever sheds; though HERE the impenetrable blackness of death enshrouds his name yet they who love him may well exclaim:

"He, the more fortunate! Yea, he hath finished!  
For him there is no longer any future,  
His life is bright--bright without spot it was  
And cannot cease to be. No ominous hour  
Knocks at his door with tidings of mishap  
Far off is he, above desire and fear  
No more submitted to the change and chance  
Of the unsteady planets. O 'tis well with  
Him! but who knows what coming hour  
Veiled in thick darkness brings for us?"

The same issue carried a tribute of respect from the Washington Lodge, No. 1, F and AM.

Boudinot may have had a presentiment of the coming conflict which would engulf the nation. He and the Ridges were pro-Confederacy and the Ridges were slaveholders (in 1856 they listed 13; the largest slaveholder in the county was David Walker who had 20).

The Ridges in fact brought their slaves when they made the removal to the West.

Early in September, 1837 John Ridge wrote "Tomorrow I leave New Echota and in one week bid an everlasting farewell to the land of my birth." His improvements came to \$21,486.67 and he had already sent most of his negroes and horses ahead to the west with William Childers, his tenant and ferryman. But he kept three servants to help in the move.

They were: Maria, to do the cooking; Henry, to drive the carriage; and Mary, to take care of the children. The John Ridges were accompanied by Elias Boudinot (his new wife Harriet had died and was buried at New Echota), a William Lassley, and Polly Gilbreath.

On their way west, they visited Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage near Nashville, and then probably went north through Kentucky and across the Mississippi at Cape Girardeau, Mo. The trip took seven weeks. In late November they reached Honey Creek and were greeted by Major Ridge whose new home was described by his wife:

"We had to undergo many privations but we bore them all under the belief that we had found a comfortable home for our children and grandchildren. We expended much money and labor on building houses and clearing land."