

Express Trail of Tears concern

134 By RANDY LILLESTON
Missourian Staff Writer

Will it be the "Tourist Trail of Tears?"

That was the main question asked last night by a surprisingly large crowd, which attended a hearing, held by the National Park Service, concerning the possible establishment of the Trail of Tears as a national historic trail.

People at the hearing, including historians, archeologists, anthropologists, and just interested area residents, expressed concern that a historic trail might be poorly researched and become more of a tourist attraction than a true reflection of history.

The public hearing, which was held at SEMO State University, was a required step before federal funding

can be obtained to establish a national historic trail. Congress authorized a study of the Trail of Tears area in 1983 to see if a national historic trail should be established.

Charles M. Schuler, a representative of the National Park Service's southeast regional office in Atlanta, conducted last night's hearing. The

(See Rail, Page 6)

of
Sto

MISSOURI NEWSPAPER
PRESS CLIPPING
Missouri Press Service, Inc.
8th and Locust
Columbia, Missouri 65201

The Southeast Missourian
Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Circulation: 15881

DATE

OCT 31 1984

RAIL

(Continued from Page 1)

ing to conduct a survey of the companies which use the branch line and gather figures on the tonnage shipped and received on the line, Hendrix announced.

Officials at several industries affected by the planned railroad abandonment recently sent letters to U.S. Rep. Bill Emerson (R-Cape Girardeau) asking for his help in the battle to keep the rail line in operation here.

Industry leaders at the forum expressed concern that the chamber is spending more effort on seeking new industries to locate here rather than

supporting existing businesses. They stated they would like to see better community support for existing industries.

Industry executives also said they would like to see Independence Street widened between Kingshighway and East Rodney.

The project, which also involves the replacement of the Independence Street bridge, has been on the drawing board for several years.

However, Strohmeyer, said the city has had difficulties acquiring right of way needed to proceed with the project.

20
11

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Support Historic Status For Trail Of Tears

Some believe that might bring its for Missouri, federal y. Those include the n of tourism and activity. In addition, state agencies might be developing hiking paths along the trail.

designations might also aid a program to preserve historic sites, a Park Service

Service has embarked on study of designating the onal historic trail. It has es, of workshops in nine t public comment on the ce Brittain of the Park utheast regional office in rksnop Monday night in Brittain said the Park ted to find out if the trail

"The site is locatable. It is a history lesson of a very special kind. It commemorates an epic event."

was of national historic significance and whether enough interest and information existed to make it practical to establish the trail.

Both issues have got positive reaction, Brittain said.

Another workshop was held Tuesday night in Cape Girardeau.

The Cherokee were set upon the Trail of Tears under the Indian Removal Act signed by President Andrew Jackson in 1830. The Cherokee eviction took place in 1837

and 1838 after they fought successful court battles to continue occupying their lands and homes.

When the government ignored the court decision and began confiscating Cherokee lands, some Indians signed a removal treaty and went west. The others were forced out by government soldiers and driven west.

The drive began in southwestern North Carolina and went through Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and

Arkansas. It ended near Tahlequah, Okla.

The routes included movements over land and water, with 13 parties of about 1,000 Indians each going west during the two years, Brittain said.

Brittain said study officials are trying to identify the original trail as closely as possible. The mapping includes a 10-mile wide corridor to account for the probable route from one historically known passage site to another.

"If we put out a Trail of Tears map, people will think that is actually the trail, and it should be as accurate as possible," he said.

Some of the 22 people at the workshop in Springfield indicated that information existed on trail sites in Greene County and other places in Missouri.

One of those at the workshop was Robert Flanders, director of the Center for Ozarks Studies at Southwest Missouri State University. He said many historians were convinced of the long-term cultural significance of the trail.

"The site is locatable," he said. "It is a history lesson of a very special kind. It commemorates an epic event."

No public opposition to the trail designation has surfaced yet, Brittain said.

The two-year study, authorized by Congress last year at a cost of \$270,000, began this year. After the public workshops are over, the Park Service will decide whether the trail concept merits continued consideration. If so, officials will write an environmental assessment and eventually present its recommendations to Congress.

MISSOURI NEWSPAPER
PRESS CLIPPING
Missouri Press Service, Inc.
8th and Locust
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Bloomfield Vindicator
Bloomfield, Missouri
Circulation: 1,900

DATE

"Trail of Tears" nominated "Historic Trail"

The Trail of Tears, the route followed by Cherokee Indians in the 1830s when they were forcibly removed from their homes east of the Mississippi River and marched to reservations in Oklahoma, is being considered for designation as a national historic trail.

"The Trail of Tears commemorates a tragic

part of American history," said John Karel, Missouri's liaison on the Trail of Tears study and director of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. "Thousands of people were evicted from their homes and marched 1,200 miles. This march took its toll: about one-fourth of the 15,000 In-

dians who started out in North Carolina died along the trail."

The trail began near the town of Murphy in southwestern North Carolina and ended near Tahlequah in Oklahoma. In between were Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas.

Karel said that the

Trail of Tears' historic importance would receive more recognition as a national historic trail. If the Trail of Tears becomes a national historic trail, it would become the fourth historic trail crossing Missouri's boundaries. The other three are the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe and the Oregon trails.

MISSOURI NEWSPAPER
PRESS CLIPPING
Missouri Press Service, Inc.
8th and Locust
Columbia, Missouri 65201

The Daily News
Springfield, Missouri
Circulation: 34752

DATE

JUN 5 1985

Trail

From Page 1C

and data gathered in research will be written as a report to be published in June 1985, Brittain said. The draft of the report will be reviewed for 45 days by the public and agencies involved in the project. In Missouri, the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Historic Preservation is coordinating the study.

A final report will be presented to Congress and then to the president. If the designation is successful, the management plan will be established, Brittain said.

The Missouri portion of the Trail of Tears designation calls for a 10-mile wide band that crosses 27 counties, beginning from Cape Girardeau. While historical accuracy is important, the wide band gives the park service some latitude in the first part of the historical designation.

Group on trail of proposed historic site Workshop studies Cherokee movement

By Jessie Mangaliman

The Daily News

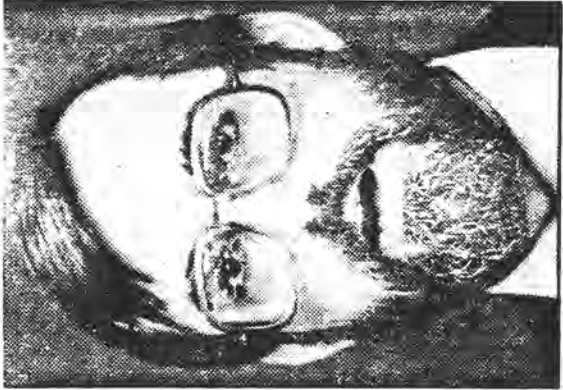
The proposed historic designation of the Cherokee Trail of Tears could perhaps bring into proper historical perspective the significance of the forced removal of Indians from their lands in the Southeast, a National Park Service official said Monday.

Wallace C. Brittain, coordinator of the national project to bring historical designation to the 1,200 miles traversed by Cherokees when they were forced to move west by the military in 1837 and 1838, led a public workshop Monday at Southwest Missouri State University.

Comments from the workshop will be used by the park service to determine whether the trail should be designated as a national historic trail.

But the significance of mapping out the path that crosses nine states, including Missouri, goes beyond historical details, Brittain said.

"The real significance is not where the feet hit the ground or how many died. But the significance of it is the Indian policy at the time. It's a bigger issue the fact that it's a forced military removal," Brittain said.



Ken Cole

The eviction of the Cherokees was ordered in 1830 when President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. After a series of appeals and delays, the move was started in 1837.

About 15,000 Cherokees moved westward and the trail ended in Tablequah, Okla., where tribal headquarters are now located. More than 3,000 Cherokees died in the move.

"It's easy enough to say the historical designation is a good idea. But a lot of us are convinced of the cultural significance of a well-documented historical site. This is a history lesson which is of a very special kind. This commemorates an epic event," said Robert Flanders, director of the Center for Ozarks Studies at SMS.



Wallace Brittain

Flanders was one of several SMS professors who attended the workshop. Others attending included representatives of the state Department of Highway and Transportation, the Bellevue Valley Historical Society in Caledonia, the U.S. Forest Service in Rolla and the Missouri Parks Association.

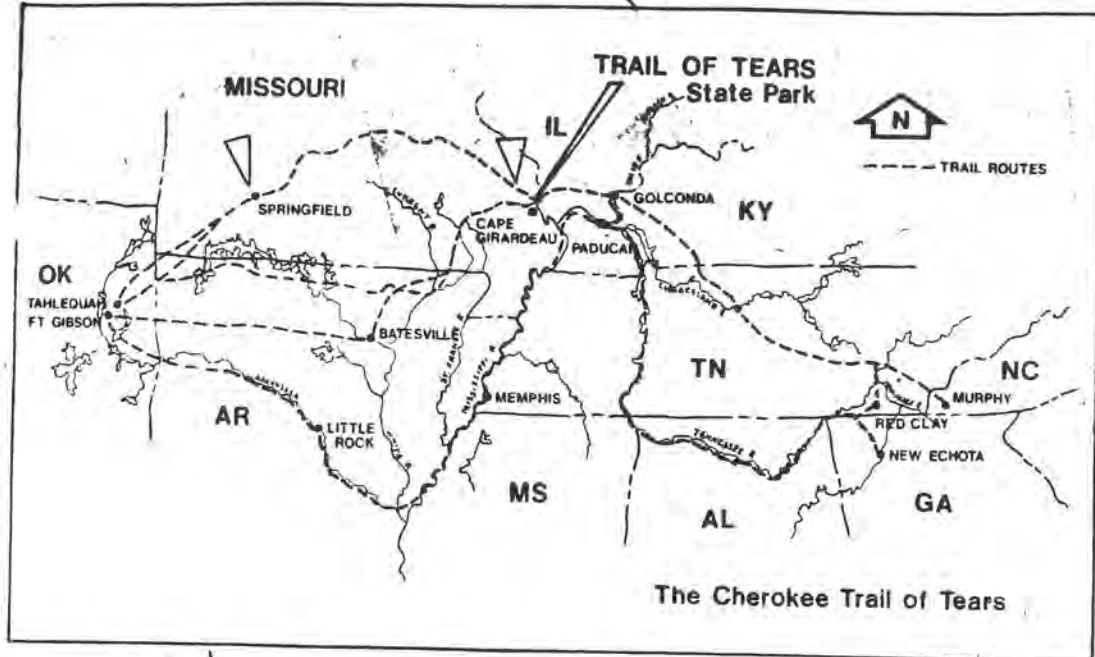
Brittain said the function of the workshop was to draw historians, interested citizens, archaeologists, researchers and others to a meeting where they can contribute to the two-year national study. A similar workshop will be held today in Cape Girardeau.

Comments from the workshops

Please see TRAIL/Page 2C

Banner-Press
Marble Hill, Missouri
Circulation 4508

DATE



Trail of Tears could be named National Historic Trail

There is a chance that Bollinger County may have part of a National Historic Trail designated through its area.

The National Park Service is making a major study of the historic significance of the Trail of Tears, taken by the Cherokee Indians and their Army escorts in the late 1830s.

Apparently at least one of the paths taken by the Indians came through Bollinger County and cut to the south and west. There is some disagreement about the exact route.

Did this trail come across near what is now Hwy. 72, and go on to Fredericktown, before cutting south?

Or did it come through near what is now Hwy. 34 and proceed on to old Greenville, on what is considered the Old Military Trail?

A state agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and a historical research organization sponsored by SEMO Univer-

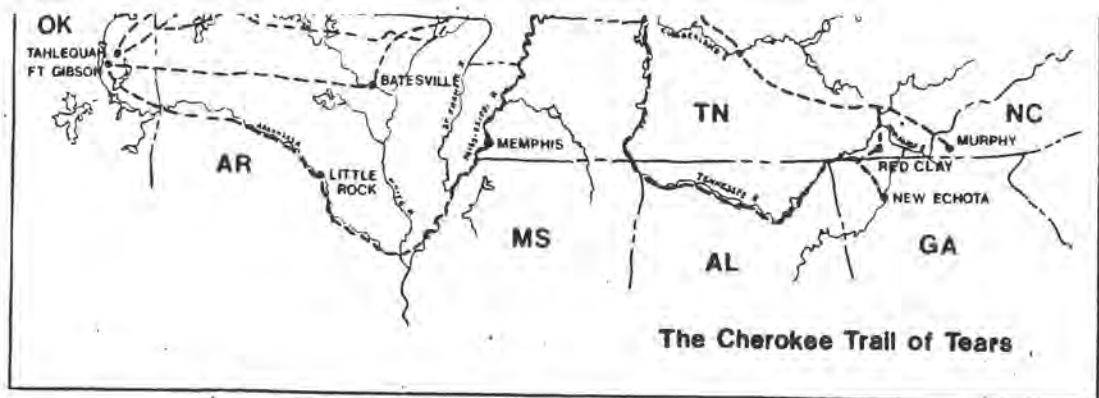
National Park Service is conducting a \$230,000 study of the potential for a National Historic Trail. Its researches will include a lot of work in North Carolina, as well as in other states where the Indians traveled.

Near Bollinger County we already have a state Trail of Tears State Park, just north of Cape Girardeau, where the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi in 1838-1839 during their forced trek from North Carolina to eastern Oklahoma.

Just south of Fredericktown, there is an area called Cherokee Pass, which took its name from that Trail of Tears. However, it is possible the Indians used a trail near what is now Hwy. 72 to reach that area.

It is also possible that some contingents of Indians passed through here using what is now Hwy. 34.

The Center for Regional History at SEMO needs more local information about this. It is possible that



Trail of Tears could be named National Historic Trail

There is a chance that Bollinger County may have part of a National Historic Trail designated through its area.

The National Park Service is making a major study of the historic significance of the Trail of Tears, taken by the Cherokee Indians and their Army escorts in the late 1830s.

Apparently at least one of the paths taken by the Indians came through Bollinger County and cut to the south and west. There is some disagreement about the exact route.

Did this trail come across near what is now Hwy. 72, and go on to Fredericktown, before cutting south?

Or did it come through near what is now Hwy. 34 and proceed on to old Greenville, on what is considered the Old Military Trail?

A state agency, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and a historical research organization sponsored by SEMO University held a workshop on Tuesday of this week at the University Center Ballroom at SEMO.

In the 1830s there was a military trail which led through this area. At that time, most of what is now Bollinger County was part of Cape Girardeau County, with the courthouse at Jackson.

There was a small crossroads community at what is now Marble Hill. In the early days this was known as Dallas. The military trail came through Dallas.

There is a chance that if the route did pass through Bollinger County, designation of this route as a National Historic Trail could help encourage tourism here.

There are several parts of the state's Castor River State Forest which might be included along the National Historic Trail.

The Southeastern District of the

National Park Service is conducting a \$230,000 study of the potential for a National Historic Trail. Its researches will include a lot of work in North Carolina, as well as in other states where the Indians traveled.

Near Bollinger County we already have a state Trail of Tears State Park, just north of Cape Girardeau, where the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi in 1838-1839 during their forced trek from North Carolina to eastern Oklahoma.

Just south of Fredericktown, there is an area called Cherokee Pass, which took its name from that Trail of Tears. However, it is possible the Indians used a trail near what is now Hwy. 72 to reach that area.

It is also possible that some contingents of Indians passed through here using what is now Hwy. 34.

The Center for Regional History at SEMO needs more local information about this. It is possible that someone may have some family letters on this, or family histories might include some details.

The center at SEMO would like to have any information from families here about the Indians and their journey west during the 1830s.

Its address is Center for Regional History and Cultural Heritage, SEMO University, Cape Girardeau, Mo. 63701, or call 314-651-2555.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is the state agency charged with coordinating local studies with the National Park Service. John Karel of Natural Resources is the liaison man for this project. His address is P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.

Information gathered locally will be turned over to the National Park Service for use in its two-year study on whether the Trail of Tears should receive the special designation.

Historians view future of Trail of Tears park

A public workshop was held at Southeast Missouri State University Oct. 30 to collect information and comments for a study of the Cherokee Trail of Tears, which is being evaluated for possible designation as a national historic trail. The meeting was one of two held in Missouri, with the other at Springfield Oct. 29.

The workshop was conducted by Ken Cox from the Division of Park and Historic Preservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Charles M. Schuller, a representative of the National Park Service. Professors from the university, state park representatives and other interested individuals attend-

ed. Workshops are being conducted in all states that the trail crossed, beginning in northern Georgia and southern North Carolina, and going through Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas to the area around Tablequah, Okla. The National Park Service began the study in January to determine if the Trail of Tears meets the criteria established by Congress for an historic trail.

To be designated a national historic trail, the route must have been established by historic use,

be historically significant as a result of that use, and have had a far-reaching effect on American culture. It must also have significant potential for public recreation, but also use and historical interest, but the presence of recreational potential is not enough in itself.

The Trail of Tears is the name of the route followed by Cherokee Indians when they were forcibly removed from their homes east of the Mississippi and marched 1,200 miles by the U. S. Army to reservations in Oklahoma. When white settlers began to discover the rich soils and minerals on the lands belonging to the Cherokees, President Andrew Jackson signed a bill authorizing the Indians' removal. The trail's name sprang from the severe hardships suffered along the way: about one fourth of the 15,000 people who started out in North Carolina died on the trail.

Cox and Schuller feel that the trail does meet all the designated criteria, and a study report will be ready by Thanksgiving to be sent to the federal government as a review. Once it is designated as a national historic trail, it may take several years for the money to actually be appropriated.

"It depends a lot on public

pressure and public input," Schuller said. He felt that the money would come through faster if there is a great degree of local interest shown in the project.

He said that in states they had visited up to this point, interest is not as great as he had hoped. He said that the attendance of the meeting at SEMO was the largest so far, and was encouraged by the group's enthusiasm. "We want the states to get involved... With the budget deficit, these days you can't do anything without state, local and private help."

The federal government would be responsible for coordinating the project, and would buy and put up signs to mark the trail along established roads, Cox explained. The state would then maintain them. In those areas where the trail runs through undeveloped areas, or recreation areas, such as the Trail of Tears State Park, hiking trails could be developed. Development and maintenance could be through state park funds. Cox said he hoped each state could establish at least one interpretive center like the one planned at the

Trail of Tears, Pages

DATE

Trail of Tears

Continued from page 1

Trail of Tears State Park.

Designating a trail that is historically accurate presents several problems, Schuller said. First, it is often difficult to find accurate documentation. Then, there were a number of groups of Cherokees who took different routes to Tahlequah, so the NPR is trying to establish the route that the most people took. For the study's purposes, a planning corridor of about 50 miles in width has been established. Through the workshops, Schuller hopes to "tighten up" the corridor.

Dr. Duncan Wilkie, assistant professor of anthropology at SEMO, told Schuller that there is a great deal of documentation available in this area, and suggested that a coordinator be set up for each state or area to collect the data.

"You should consider doing more intensive work now before it becomes oversimplified, and myths are established in concrete," said Wilkie. He gave an example the picture printed in the information packet given out at the workshop, saying that the Indians did not dress like that.

"We have to strike a balance," said Cox. "We don't want it so simplified that it's meaningless, but we don't have the manpower for a ten-year study."

Wilkie suggested that a local effort to work on the project be organized at this time. Bob White, assistant professor of history, offered to coordinate the information through the Center for Regional History and Cultural Heritage at 530 N. Pacific. Anyone desiring to give or receive information on the project may contact the center.

Independent Journal
Potosi, Missouri
Circulation: 4544

DATE

Trail Of Tears Considered For Historic Designation

JEFFERSON CITY - The Trail of Tears, the route followed by Cherokee Indians in the 1830s when they were forcibly removed from their homes east of the Mississippi River and marched to reservations in Oklahoma, is being considered for designation as a national historic trail. Two public workshops are being held in late October in Missouri, one of the states the Indians passed through on their arduous journey, to receive comments on the historic significance of the trail and the appropriateness of its proposed designation.

The first workshop is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Monday, Oct. 29, in Room 114 of the Campus Union, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield; the second workshop is set for 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the University Center Ballroom, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service will use the information and the comments it receives at these two workshops in its initial study of the trail. This two-year study will determine whether the Trail of Tears qualifies as a national historic trail. If the National Park Service decides the trail is qualified, the agency then will prepare a plan detailing the management of this new national historic trail.

Throughout this process, the states that the Cherokee Indians passed through will have a cooperative role. In

started out in North Carolina died along the trail."

This episode of American history began in the early 1800s when white settlers began to discover the rich soils and minerals on the lands belonging to the Cherokee Indians. A bill authorizing the Indians' removal was signed in 1830 by President Andrew Jackson. He made the U.S. Army responsible for moving the Indians.

The trail began near the town of Murphy in southwestern North Carolina and ended near Tahlequah in Oklahoma. In between were Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Karel said that the Trail of Tears' historic importance would receive more recognition as a national historic trail. If the Trail of Tears becomes a national historic trail, it would become the fourth historic trail crossing Missouri's boundaries. The other three are the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe, and the Oregon trails.

Designation as a national historic trail also may mean that certain areas along the Trail of Tears would be given protection by federal, state, and local governments.

Missouri already has recognized the historic importance of this trail at Trail of Tears State Park, located near Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River. One of the points at which the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi River in the winter of 1838-1839 lies within this park's boundaries.

Bushyhead and his daughter, Princess Otaiki. Their party reached the Mississippi River across from Cape Girardeau in midwinter and ice delayed their crossing. After several days of waiting in the bitter cold, they finally ferried across. Legend has it that Princess Otaiki died of pneumonia following the crossing.

Different parties of the Cherokees took different routes - both over land and water. As a consequence, several Missouri towns that existed at that time witnessed the march. According to official records, some of the Indians crossed the Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau; traveled to Jackson, the county seat of Cape Girardeau County; angled northwest to Caledonia; passed the iron mills at today's Maramec Spring Park near St. James; curved southwest to Springfield; and then traveled through Arkansas before reaching Oklahoma. Another route followed by the Cherokees took them southeast from their crossing near Cape Girardeau to Greenville and Current View.

Trail of Tears, the route followed by Cherokee Indians in the 1830s when they were forcibly removed from their homes east of the Mississippi River and marched to reservations in Oklahoma, is being considered for designation as a national historic trail. Two public workshops are being held in late October in Missouri, one of the states the Indians passed through on their arduous journey, to receive comments on the historic significance of the trail and the appropriateness of its proposed designation.

The first workshop is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Monday, Oct. 29, in Room 114 of the Campus Union, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield; the second workshop is set for 7:30 P.M. Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the University Center Ballroom, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service will use the information and the comments it receives at these two workshops in its initial study of the trail. This two-year study will determine whether the Trail of Tears qualifies as a national historic trail. If the National Park Service decides the trail is qualified, the agency then will prepare a plan detailing the management of this new national historic trail.

Throughout this process, the states that the Cherokee Indians passed through will have a cooperative role. In Missouri, the agency responsible for coordinating with the National Park Service is the Department of Natural Resources.

"The Trail of Tears commemorates a tragic part of American history," said John Karel, Missouri's liaison on the Trail of Tears study and director of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. "Thousands of people were evicted from their homes and marched 1,200 miles. This march took its toll: about one-fourth of the 15,000 Indians who

This episode of American history began in the early 1800s when white settlers began to discover the rich soils and minerals on the lands belonging to the Cherokee Indians. A bill authorizing the Indians' removal was signed in 1830 by President Andrew Jackson. He made the U.S. Army responsible for moving the Indians.

The trail began near the town of Murphy in southwestern North Carolina and ended near Tahlequah in Oklahoma. In between were Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Karel said that the Trail of Tears' historic importance would receive more recognition as a national historic trail. If the Trail of Tears becomes a national historic trail, it would become the fourth historic trail crossing Missouri's boundaries. The other three are the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe, and the Oregon trails.

Designation as a national historic trail also may mean that certain areas along the Trail of Tears would be given protection by federal, state, and local governments.

Missouri already has recognized the historic importance of this trail at Trail of Tears State Park, located near Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River. One of the points at which the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi River in the winter of 1838-1839 lies within this park's boundaries.

The citizens of Cape Girardeau County, recognizing the historic significance of this area as well as its natural beauty, authorized a bond issue in 1956 to purchase the land and then gave it to Missouri as a state park. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Trail of Tears State Park, along with 73 other state parks and historic sites.

A monument in the park marks the site of one legendary grave. Among the Indians forced to make the march were Chief Jesse

party reached the Mississippi River across from Cape Girardeau in midwinter and ice delayed their crossing. After several days of waiting in the bitter cold, they finally ferried across. Legend has it that Princess Otaahki died of pneumonia following the crossing.

Different parties of the Cherokees took different routes - both over land and water. As a consequence, several Missouri towns that existed at that time witnessed the march. According to official records, some of the Indians crossed the Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau; traveled to Jackson, the county seat of Cape Girardeau County; angled northwest to Caledonia; passed the iron mills at today's Maramec Spring Park near St. James; curved southwest to Springfield; and then traveled through Arkansas before reaching Oklahoma. Another route followed by the Cherokees took them southeast from their crossing near Cape Girardeau to Greenville and Current View.

MISSOURI NEWSPAPER
PRESS CLIPPING
Missouri Press Service, Inc.
8th and Locust
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Puxico Weekly Press
Puxico, Missouri
Circulation: 2,191

DATE OCT 31 1986

Trail of Tears

Continued from Page 1

that existed at the time witnessed the march. According to official records, some of the Indians crossed the Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau; traveled to Jackson, the county seat of Cape Girardeau County; angled northwest to Caledonia; passed the iron mills at today's Meramec Spring Park near St. James; curved southwest to Springfield; and then traveled through Arkansas before reaching Oklahoma.

Cherokees Passed Through This Area in 1830s . . .

Trail of Tears Under Study

agency responsible for coordinating with the National Park Service is the Department of Natural Resources.

It isn't widely known, but one of the several routes followed by the Cherokees passed through the Puxico-Wappapello area and on to old Greenville and westward into Current River country.

"The Trail of Tears commemorates a tragic part of American history," said John Karel, Missouri's liaison on the Trail of Tears study and director of Natural Resources' Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. "Thousands of people were evicted from their homes and marched 1,200 miles. This march took its toll: about one-fourth of the 15,000 Indians who started out in North Carolina died along the trail."

This episode of American history began in the early 1800s when white settlers began to discover the rich soils and minerals on the lands belonging to the Cherokee Indians. A bill authorizing the Indians' removal was signed in 1830 by President Andrew Jackson. He made the U.S. Army responsible for moving the Indians.

The trail began near the town of Murphy in southwestern North Carolina and ended near Table-

quah in Oklahoma. In between were Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Karel said that the Trail of Tears' historic importance would receive more recognition as a national historic trail. If the Trail of Tears becomes a national historic trail, it would become the fourth historic trail crossing Missouri's boundaries. The other three are the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe, and the Oregon trails.

Designation as a national historic trail also may mean that certain areas along the Trail of Tears would be given protection by federal, state, and local governments.

Missouri already has recognized the historic importance of this trail at Trail of Tears State Park, located near Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River. One of the points at which the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi River in the winter of 1838-1839 lies within this park's boundaries.

The citizens of Cape Girardeau County, recognizing the historic significance of this area as well as its natural beauty, authorized a bond issue in 1956 to purchase the land and then gave it to Missouri as a state park. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Trail of Tears State

The Nat
started
Indian
a map, d

Park, al
parks an
A mo
the site
Among
the m
Bushyl

Area in 1830s...

Trail of Tears Under Study for Historic Role

able for coordination of National Park Service and Department of Natural Resources.

known, but one of the routes followed by the Cherokee people as they moved through the area and on to the westward into the Territory.

Tears commemorates the part of American history told by John Karel, Missouri's first governor, the Trail of Tears. The National Park Service and the Department of Natural Resources are sponsoring a study of the Trail of Tears. "Thousands of people were evicted from the area in 1838-39. I marched 1,200 miles in the winter of 1838-39. I took its toll: 15,000 people died on the trail."

of American history in the early 1800s when the Cherokee people began to discover minerals on the land. The Cherokee people were authorized by the U.S. Army to move the Cherokee people to the west.

near the town of Tahlequah in the western North Carolina mountains near Table

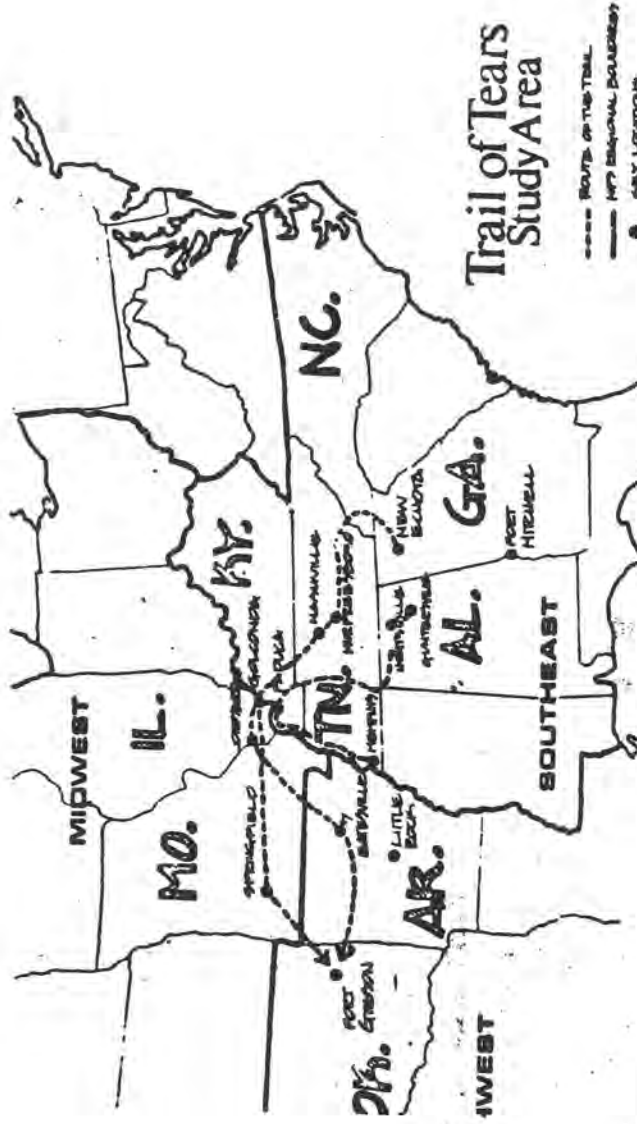
quah in Oklahoma. In between were Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Karel said that the Trail of Tears' historic importance would receive more recognition as a national historic trail. If the Trail of Tears becomes a national historic trail, it would become the fourth historic trail crossing Missouri's boundaries. The other three are the Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe, and the Oregon trails.

Designation as a national historic trail also may mean that certain areas along the Trail of Tears would be given protection by federal, state, and local governments.

Missouri already has recognized the historic importance of this trail at Trail of Tears State Park, located near Cape Girardeau on the Mississippi River. One of the points at which the Cherokees crossed the Mississippi River in the winter of 1838-1839 lies within this park's boundaries.

The citizens of Cape Girardeau County, recognizing the historic significance of this area as well as its natural beauty, authorized a bond issue in 1956 to purchase the land and then gave it to Missouri as a state park. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources administers Trail of Tears State



Trail of Tears Study Area

North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama to Oklahoma. The grave of Otaahki, daughter of a Cherokee chief is in Trail of Tears

The National Park Service has started a study of the Cherokee Indian "Trail of Tears." Shown in a map, designating the route from

Princess Otaahki. Their party reached the Mississippi River across from Cape Girardeau in midwinter and ice delayed their crossing. After several days of waiting in the bitter cold, they finally ferried across. Legend has

Park, along with 73 other state parks and historic sites. A monument in the park marks the site of one legendary grave. Among the Indians forced to make the march were Chief Jesse Bushyhead and his daughter.

State Park in Cape County. Her father's party crossed the Mississippi at Moccasin Springs north of Cape Girardeau during the harsh winter of 1838-39.

it that Princess Otaahki died of pneumonia following the crossing.

Different parties of the Cherokee people took different routes—both overland and water. As a consequence, several Missouri towns

Continued on Page 2