

all along the "trail of tears" to hearten her people. She sang:

'Cherokee, warriors, hunters,
 Children of the great Hiawatha
 Though the snow of winter bind us,
 And the voices of the forest
 Come unbidden to our camp fire,
 Still before us are the prairies,
 Land of sunshine, not of darkness,
 Homeland, where the streamlets murmur,
 Through the gorges of the mountains,
 Where the bounding deer awaits us,
 And the feasts are spread before us,
 Where the green corn smiles in beauty,
 Tahlequah, Tahlequah."

Migration commenced by boat, those of the Ridge faction would not move under John Ross. Gen. Scott issued this proclamation May 10, 1838, informing them that they must move in accord with the treaty of December 29, 1835. In January, 1837, about 600 emigrated themselves; March 3, 1837, 466 in charge of Dr. Lillybridge passed up the Arkansas on the steamer Mohawk, arriving at Ft. Gibson March 29, 1837; October 14, 1837, 365 under B. B. Cannon routed through Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri, started from the Cherokee Agency. They camped on Clear Creek in the Mississippi River bottom. On November 14 they crossed the Mississippi River, marched a few days and camped at Widow Roberts (on Byrd Creek) on the road to Farmington, Caledonia, Waynesville, through Springfield to the Indian Territory, arriving December 28, 1837. On March 25, 1838, 250 embarked under Lieut. Dees on steamer Smelter to Little Rock where they were transferred to the steamer Little Rock which took them to McLains Landing, 45 miles below Ft. Smith, from there they proceeded by wagons, arriving at Sallisaw Creek, Indian Territory, April 28, 1838. On June 6, 1838, 800 started by boat under Lieut. Dees, arriving at Paducah with 489 (this must have been the detachment that was aboard the steamer Monmouth which had a collision and 311 were drowned). They arrived in the Territory October 4, 1838. June 15, 1838, 875 under Lieut. R. H. K. Whitely passed Little Rock, arriving August 5, 1838. June 17, 1838, 1070 started from Ross Landing, under Capt. Drane, in wagons to Waterloo where they were to take boats.

In the summer of 1838 a universal drouth had set in and the navigation of the Tennessee River was suspended. On July 23, 1838, John Ross, with other Chiefs, petitioned Gen. Scott to permit the Cherokee Nation to undertake the whole business of removal to the west of the Mississippi River.

General Winfield Scott on July 25 agreed, provided they start by September 1 and all be under way by October 20. The agreed meeting place was Rattle Snake Springs near Charleston, Tennessee. In the settlement of terms of vacating, the Government agreed to provide means of transportation and subsistence for the moving and for one year after arriving at their destination. General Scott agreed to furnish a wagon and team for each 20 and a saddle horse for every fourth person, subsistence and ferrriage charges. They traveled in groups of about 1,000 at the rate of from 5 to ___ miles per day, but this rate was varied owing to places for convenient camping as it was necessary to have plenty of water and give the subsistence contractor opportunity to supply necessities. The agreement covering the cost of removal was \$65.28 per person and \$1,000 ferrriage. Under the agreement arrived at between General Scott and the Cherokees, who were represented by

... removed to the Cherokee in 1838 ...
 ... through ...
 John S. Pochman,

10

their Chiefs, John Ross, Richard Taylor, Samuel and Edward Guenter, James Brown, Elijah Hicks, Sitawakee and White Path, it was agreed they should arrange all details of removal and superintend same. They appointed Louis Ross, a brother of John Ross, to subsistense the removal. Under the contracted agreement with Gen. Scott, made July 25, 1838, they were gathered in four convenient canoes, 3 in Tennessee, 1 in Alabama; they were to start by October 20; they moved in 13 groups about 3 days apart, the last starting December 4, 1838, the Council appointed two Chiefs or head men for each group who was to have charge of the moving.

The old men, women and children were loaded in the wagons with their household belongings, with hundreds of men walking or riding horseback and Army officers riding along the line or in the rear, guarding to prevent their breaking away and returning to their old haunts. It is reported that something like 1,000 did return and in after years were granted permission to remain in North Carolina.

The line of travel crossed the Tennessee River near the mouth of the Hiwassee, passing a little to the south of Pikeville, through McMinnville, crossing the Cumberland River at Nashville and on through Hopkinsville, Kentucky, on by the way of Princeton, crossing the Ohio River at Golconda, Illinois. In Illinois their road followed a well traveled route from North Carolina to the west, passing through what is now Dixon Springs, Vienna, Mount Pleasant, Anna, Jonesboro and Ware to the Mississippi River, crossing on Horse ferry boats, landing at Willards Landing, now called Moccasin Springs, about 10 miles north of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. They followed the Greens Ferry road to Jackson and on to Farmington, Caledonia, Waynesville, Springfield, and on to Indian Territory. This is recorded in the Jackson Advertiser, copied in the Arkansas Gazette December 26, 1838, in which it says from 13,000 to 14,000 passed through Jackson.

The ferry landing now, in 1935, is known as Moccasin Springs, which is directly across the river from where the Golconda road came to the river. This point is directly west of Ware, Illinois and 10 miles north of Cape Girardeau. Moccasin Springs is the eastern terminal of the Greens Ferry Road which was the only road leading from this ferry to Jackson and is in this day, 1935, one of the farm-to-market roads. Thomas Nichols and Jacob Littleton maintained a horse ferry at Willards Landing and it was at this ferry that the Indian migration crossed. As they came to the river they camped, and as they landed on the Missouri side they camped until the entire detachment was across. This is confirmed by the statement of Miss Ada Sheppard of Bainbridge, a grand-daughter of William Sheppard who entered the land in 1830, from the Government, along the river covering two miles, just south of Moccasin Springs, where he maintained a wood yard for fueling the Mississippi River steamers and kept a store where these Indians came to trade and exchange coffee, which the Government furnished them and they did not use, for other edibles, mostly beans. They would buy finery, hats and other things and stand before a mirror, primping. The old dresser with a large mirror is still, in 1935, in possession of the Sheppard sisters who live in the same house built by their grandfather where he had his store, where it has stood for over 100 years. Miss Sheppard, who is around 65 years old, says her information comes from her grandfather who extolled the honesty, courtesy and truthfulness of these Indians.

Dr. Oliver J. Miller of Egypt Mills, whose father owned the land at Moccasin Springs which he inherited, confirms the statement of Miss Sheppard regarding the ferry and the Cherokees crossing at this point; also the camping and death of several, having found graves and markers which undoubtedly were those of Indians.

Mr. Ferdinand Windkonecht, who has always lived on the Greens Ferry Road, who is 76 years old, says his father and uncle, who were boys at the time the Cherokees migrated, have told him of the passing and how the men would hunt and kill game along the way but would never carry it in but would mark the way to the game by breaking off twigs and the women would follow this trail, go out and bring it in and prepare it for consumption.

In Guy Forman's "Indian Removal" he says that Mrs. Rebecca Mingen who was deported with her parents when she was three years old, told him her mother had told her "that on the migration they got very tired of 'salt pork', that her father walked and hunted all the way for turkey and deer and camps were usually made at watering places."

The first detachment to get under way was under John Bengs, October 1, with 1200. He was reported at Batesville, Ark., December 15 and arrived in Indian Territory January 10, 1839. Another party reported from Little Prairie (Caruthersville) December 30 by Evan Jones saying they had been on the road 75 days, that it was extremely cold, that they sent parties ahead to build fires along the road to warm by.

This indicates that not all the parties traveling by land passed through Cape Girardeau County. It was reported by old men who made the trip 50 years before that the crossing of the Mississippi River was made in two divisions at Greens Ferry and Cape Girardeau (this must have been Grays Point).

The second detachment under Elijah Hicks, October 4, with 858, arriving January 4, 1839; third under Jessie Bushyhead, October 5, with 950, arriving February 23, 1839. This detachment passed through Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where "Chief White Path" died. He was a distinguished Chief, 75 years old, had been a great warrior and for many years a member of their Council. A tall pole with a flag of white linen attached to it was planted at the head of his grave. The honor, we are told, has been immemorially paid their departed Chief, reported in the Hopkinsville Gazette, December 26, 1838. By him was buried Fly Smith, an old head man, head of one of the detachments passing through Missouri, crossing the Mississippi River at Willards Landing (Moccasin Springs). Here there were several deaths, one the daughter of Rev. Jessie Bushyhead, the wife of Hilderbrand. The following is taken from the Cash Book of August 22, 1935, from "Items Sixty Years Ago":

Quote:

"River Side, August 21, 1875, Dear Cash Book. Thirty-six years ago, when the Cherokee Indians were passing on their way to their new home, they lost one of their fairest daughters near Moccasin Springs. She was buried on a beautiful knoll near the road one mile west of the ferry landing, by her husband, Hilderbrand. She was a daughter of one of their favored ministers of the gospel, named Bushyhead. Her husband and father erected a nice tomb to mark the spot where the Cherokees' fairest daughter lay at rest. That sacred spot was revered by every one. A few years ago a fire swept over the place and demolished the tomb and only left a few broken stones to mark her last resting place. Last week some evil disposed persons dug up her remains. It is supposed, by the citizens, that they expected to find some valuable jewels, as her father was very wealthy." (End of quote)

10

This detachment passed west over the Greens Ferry Road camping at the John McLain farm on Little Indian Creek, where there were several deaths, the graves being protected during the life of John McLain, but since they have been obliterated. They passed on west through Jackson, must have camped on Hubble Creek, then on Byrds Creek at Widow Roberts place and then on Apple Creek near where Daniel Hilderbrand had a blacksmith shop. Sam Hilderbrand of Cape Girardeau, Mo., who is a grandson of Daniel Hilderbrand says his grandfather shod the horses and repaired the wagons for the Indians. This is on the old Farmington road over which they are reported to have traveled.

Rev. Jessie Bushyhead and his company were detained at the crossing of the Mississippi River on account of floating ice. While waiting, other detachments caught up with him. The Jackson Advertiser of December 26, 1838, reported:

"During the present week 1900 Cherokee Indians passed through town on their way; some of them have considerable wealth and make a very respectable appearance, but most of them are poor and exceedingly dissipated."

Then again on February 16 the Advertiser says:

"The last detachment of emigrating Indians (Cherokees), consisting of about 1000, passed through this place yesterday on their way to their new home. The largest detachment in which there were 1800 passed the day before."

Children were frequently born on the way during the migration. An incident in Hopkinsville will fully describe these events. A child was born in one of these detachments a few miles east of town; the mother was allowed to drop out and two women were allowed to stop with her in the woods. They were furnished food by the people of the vicinity. They camped for the night and the following day the mother and new-born child left with the detachment.

Louis Ross, contractor of sustenance, in his claim against the Government reported:

					Died	Births	Arrived Destination	
Elijah Hicks	-	1st. detachment	consisted of		729	57	9	1-4-1839
Harris Conrad	-	2nd.	"	"	858	54	5	1-7-1839
Jessie Bushyhead	-	3rd.	"	"	950	38	6	2-23-1839
John Bengs	-	4th.	"	"	1200	33	3	1-10-1839
Siturkee	-	5th.	"	"	1250	71	5	2-2-1839
Stephin Forman	-	6th.	"	"	983	57	19	2-27-1839
Mose Daniels	-	7th.	"	"	1035	48	6	3-2-1839
Choo-wa-loo-ka	-	8th.	"	"	1150	no report		3-1-1839
Jessie Brown	-	9th.	"	"	850	34	3	3-5-1839
George Hicks	-	10th.	"	"	1118	no report		3-14-1839
Richard Taylor	-	11th.	"	"	1029	55	15	3-24-1839
Pete Hilderbrand	-	12th.	"	"	1766	no report		3-25-1839
John Ross	-	13th.	"	"	219	"	"	At Little Rock
								2-1-1839

10
But all the plants of the forest remained friendly to man and so they agreed among themselves that they would furnish a cure for every disease the birds and insects might devise. That is why herbs have always furnished the most beneficial medicine.

Acknowledge information from - Senator R. B. Oliver

Guy Forman's Indian Removal - Dunbar's Travels in America

Drakes Indians of North America - Mason's History

Menckam's History of Christian Co. Ky.

The Ethnological Reports - Files of Little Rock Gazette in Arkansas

Historical Commission Files

Dictionary of American Biography

Various newspaper files.

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

November 25, 1935