

The Cherokees

Migration of the southeastern Cherokees to the West began in the late 1700s. The 1785 Treaty of Hopewell led to a mass exodus and marks the earliest documented crossing of the Mississippi River by Cherokees. The Treaty of May 6, 1828 called for the cession of Cherokee homelands in Arkansas in exchange for new territory in Oklahoma. That same year the Arkansas Cherokees ascended the Arkansas River to Indian Territory (Foreman 1848; Mills 1919).

The Treaty of New Echota, signed on December 29, 1835, ceded to the United States all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi River. The Cherokee leaders Elias Boudinot, Andrew Ross, Major Ridge, and his son John Ridge were among those who signed, even though they were known to be against removal. It is believed they were deceived or bribed into the agreement (Holm 1976).

In 1836, President Andrew Jackson sent troops to disarm and remove the Cherokees, who were rounded up and imprisoned in specially constructed concentration camps. In 1838, President Martin Van Buren sent Major General Winfield Scott and 7000 troops to expedite further removal (Holm 1976). A few thousand Cherokees were taken as prisoners and put onto steamboats bound for Indian Territory; more than 13,000 Cherokees, however, were escorted by land. The overland parties traveled through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas on their way to the West; these difficult journeys lasted from three to five months (Foreman 1934). Parties that removed by water typically traveled the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas rivers to Indian Territory.

Most Cherokees emigrated west in the 1830s. During this time, several individuals fled into the hills of Tennessee and North Carolina. A few of these eventually emigrated to the West in the 1880s. This marked the last of the Cherokee migrations (Holm 1976).

1829-1830

Small parties of Cherokees departed throughout late 1829 and early 1830 (Carlile 1938). One group, consisting of 113 white men and their Cherokee families, 237 Indian men and their families, and 122 slaves (Foreman 1942; Mills 1919) removing under the Treaty of 1828, boarded 20 flatboats at Gunter's Landing, Alabama in January 1830. This and other Cherokee contingents traveled the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, and Arkansas rivers to Indian Territory (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1948; Mills 1919).

- Descend the Mississippi River (h) (p) (r) (z); arrive at Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River (h) (p) (z).
- Transfer from flatboats to steamboats; pass through the White River cut-off (p) (z).
- Ascend the Arkansas River to Indian Territory (h) (p) (r) (z); 200 Cherokees on the steamer *Industry* pass Little Rock Jan. 28, 1830 (h) (p) (z); 200 Cherokees on the steamer *Waverly* pass Little Rock Jan. 29, 1830 (h) (p) (z); 70 Cherokees on the steamer *Reindeer* pass Little Rock in Mar. 1830 (p) (z); 180 Cherokees on the steamer *Industry* pass Little Rock in Apr. 1830 (p) (z).

1832

During the early part of 1832, a commutation party of 170 Cherokees traveled by their own resources to Indian Territory (Foreman 1932, 1942). They descended the Mississippi River to the mouth of the White River. Twenty emigrants then ascended the Arkansas River on the steamer *Elk*; the remainder waited for alternative transportation to arrive (Foreman 1932).

More than 600 Cherokees emigrated by boat in April 1832 (Holm 1976). One group of 380 Cherokees and their slaves left the Cherokee Agency at Calhoun on April 10, 1832 under charge of removal agent Curry (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1932, 1942). These emigrants originated from Tennessee and Georgia (Foreman 1932); the group consisted of a few full-blooded Cherokees, 40 whites, 108 slaves, and the rest were mixed (Carlile 1938). They descended the Tennessee River in nine flatboats to Waterloo, Alabama where they transferred to the steamer *Thomas Yeatman*. They then descended the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers to Arkansas (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1932, 1948; Holm 1976).

- Descend the Mississippi River and ascend the Arkansas River (h) (p) (q) (r).
- Arrive at Little Rock (h) (p) (q) Apr. 30, 1832 (h) (p).
- Disembark at the Cherokee agency just above Fort Smith (h) (p) (q).

1834

In February 1834, Cherokees began to arrive at specially constructed barracks near Hiwassee (Starkey 1946). By March, 450–500 people were ready to depart. The emigrants were to travel under the charge of Lieutenant Joseph (John) Whipple Harris and his assistant, John Miller/Mills, who was married to a Cherokee woman (Foreman 1932;

Logan 1997; Starkey 1946). Removal of this group took place in two installments (Starkey 1946). Miller/Mills' group of 72 departed on the steamers *John Cox* and *Sliger* on March 13. The remaining Cherokees awaited an approaching band from the Valley Towns. They soon arrived, and Lieutenant Harris's group left the next day aboard the steamers *Blue Buck*, *Rainbow*, *Squeezer*, and *Moll Thompson* (Foreman 1932; Logan 1997).

The steamers descended the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers, arriving at Waterloo March 19, where the Cherokees transferred to the steamer *Thomas Yeatman*. They continued down the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers. Along the way the party was joined by 67 more Cherokees (Foreman 1932; Logan 1997; Starkey 1946).

- Descend the Mississippi River (p) (q) (z) (dd); arrive at Montgomery's Point, where they find 8 or 9 stranded flatboats carrying a commutation party of about 200 Cherokees infected with measles (p) (z); Harris takes some with him and sends for additional transportation for the rest; the *Cavelier* arrives and follows Harris's party up the Arkansas River (p) (q) (z) (dd) Apr. 1834 (dd).
- Arrive at Little Rock (g) (p) (q) (z) (dd); water levels are low; discard barrels of food and belongings to lighten the boat (h) Apr. 6, 1834 (g) (p).
- Disembark on the north shore of the Arkansas River at Cadron Creek (c) (p) (z) (dd); Harris deems progress too slow; persuades 102 Cherokees to abandon the boats and travel the rest of the way overland; the overland party soon returns to Cadron Creek; the boats continue upstream but become grounded after only 1.5 hours' journey; return to Cadron where they camp for sometime in the abandoned buildings; many, including Harris, are sick with measles and cholera (p) (z) (dd); 11 die of measles and cholera and are buried at Cadron (p) Apr. 1834 (c); Apr. 26, 1834 (g).
- Continue overland from Cadron; cross Cadron Creek and travel a rough and rocky road on the north side of the Arkansas River (g) (p) (z) (dd); 17 Cherokees break from the main group to find their own way West (p) (z) Apr. 27, 1834 (z) (dd); Apr. 26, 1834 (g).
- Cross Point Remove (g) (x) (z); use "the Ferry at Elk's" and camp 1 mile beyond (x) Apr. 28, 1834 (g) (z).
- Instead of following the military road that crosses at Dardanelle Rock, Harris opts for the "upper route" on the north side of the Arkansas River (g) (x) (z).
- Depart Point Remove and travel 3 miles through the Point Remove creek bottoms; travel 11 more miles (x) (z) Apr. 29, 1834 (x) (z).
- Travel via "the new cut" to Williamson's Ford on Manor's Bayou; cross Manor's and camp on a branch 3 miles beyond; travel 11 miles today (x); reach Illinois Bayou near the site of the old Dwight Mission (p) (x); pass Illinois Bayou and camp 3 miles beyond (z) Apr. 30, 1834 (p) (x) (z).
- Travel 9 miles May 1, 1834 (x) (z); camp at branch (x).
- Cross the still-surviving Hickeytown Road Segment of the Dover-Clarksville road (g); reach Park's near Piney River; camp 4 miles beyond Park's on a ridge (g) (x); this ridge would be at present-day Lamar, just west of the road segment (g); travel 8 miles (x) (z) May 2, 1834 (g) (x) (z).
- Travel 4 miles; arrive at "Lee's on Spadney"; travel 7 more miles (x); travel 11 miles; camp on a range that was "probably" Spadra Bluff (z) May 3, 1834 (x) (z).
- Travel 5 miles to Horsehead Ford; travel 7 more miles (x); 12 miles total (z) May 4, 1834 (x) (z).
- Travel 8 miles; arrive at White Oak (west of present-day Ozark); 6 more miles May 5, 1834 (x) (z).
- Travel 7 miles; reach Lasster; cross the Big and Little Mulberry; travel 4 more miles (x); cross the Mulberry River; travel 11 miles total this day (z) May 6, 1834 (x) (z).
- Travel 11 miles to Frog Bayou; then 4 more miles (x) (z); 15 miles total (x) (z); camp at Hancock's, 6.5 miles from Indian Territory (x) May 7, 1834 (x) (z).
- Cross Lee's Creek and at noon enter the new Cherokee homeland (p) (z) (dd); arrive at Dwight's Mission in Indian Territory (g) May 8 (p) (z) (dd); May 10, 1834 (c) (g).

1837

In January 1837, Major Ridge himself emigrated along with 500–600 adherents of the Treaty of New Echota, without United States government assistance. They gathered at New Echota and set out overland with their slaves, horses, and oxen (Evans 1978; Foreman 1932; Gilbert 1996; Hoig 1998). There were no deaths en route. The party stopped in Nashville, Tennessee to shoe their horses (Evans 1978; Foreman 1932). Major Ridge dropped out of the journey to attend the wedding of his daughter (Hoig 1998).

A 1992 National Park Service study traced an 1837 overland route of Cherokees emigrating by themselves. The group presumably traveled through Nashville, Tennessee; Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and southern Illinois. They "likely" crossed the Mississippi River by ferry at Cape Girardeau, Missouri and continued across southern Missouri and into northwest Arkansas. The route across Arkansas was traced as follows and is given in terms of present-day landmarks:

- Enter Arkansas near Sugar Creek in Benton County (z); follow a route south past the western edge of Gann Ridge (z).
- Travel through the southeastern edge of Pea Ridge National Military Park using what was later called Telegraph Road; cross Little Sugar Creek (z).

- Continue southwest at Avoca along the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad (z); turn south just north of Rogers and follow Hwy. 265 around the city's eastern edge (z).
- Continue south along Hwy. 265 through Cross Hollow into Washington County past the eastern edge of Springdale (z).
- Turn southwest near Clear Springs and travel through the heart of Fayetteville (z).
- Travel west-southwest on Hwy. 62 from Fayetteville; pass through Farmington, Prairie Grove, and Lincoln (z).
- Travel north-northwest through Summers and across Ballard Creek into northeast Oklahoma, east of Westville, Oklahoma (z).

On March 13, 1837, about 466 Cherokees left Ross's Landing, near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee (Carlile 1938; Ehle 1988; Foreman 1932; Hoig 1998; Jones and Faulk 1984; Logan 1997; Starkey 1946). This party was the first to go west using the government assistance under the terms of the Treaty of New Echota (Carlile 1938). The group included Stand Waitie. Major Ridge and his wife joined this group after having dropped out of the January group (Foreman 1931; Jones and Faulk 1984).

This group was under the charge of Dr. John S. Young (King 1996b) and the physician Dr. C. Lillybridge, who kept a diary (Ehle 1998; King 1996b), plus three assistants and three interpreters, one of whom was Elijah Hicks. The Cherokees took 11 flatboats and were divided into three groups. Upon arriving at Decatur, they transferred to a train (in order to avoid the Muscle Shoals rapids) and rode to Tusculum where they boarded the steamer *Newark*. Finally they entered the Mississippi River (Carlile 1938; Ehle 1998; Foreman 1931, 1932; Hoig 1998; Logan 1997; Starkey 1946).

- Descend the Mississippi River on the *Newark* (j) (o) (p) (v) (z) Mar. 16, 1837 (v).
- Pass Memphis Mar. 17, 1837 (o, p, v, z).
- Arrive at Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River (h) (j) (o) (v) (z) Mar. 18, 1837 (o) (p) (v) (z).
- Ascend the Arkansas River (j) (o) (p) (u) (v) (z); stop for the night on the west bank of the river 50 miles below Little Rock (o) Mar. 20, 1837 (o).
- Land on the north bank of the river opposite Little Rock (h) (j) (o) (p) (u) (v) (z) Mar. 21, 1837 (h) (j) (p) (v) (z).
- Transfer to the lighter steamer *Revenue* and continue upriver (o) (p) (z) Mar. 22, 1837 (o) (p) (z).
- Arrive at Van Buren (a) (j) (o) (p) (u) (z) Mar. 27, 1837 (h) (j) (o) (p) (z).
- Arrive at Fort Smith (h) (j) (p) (u) (v) (z) Mar. 27, 1838 (j) (o) (v); Mar. 28, 1837 (h) (p) (u) (z).
- Go ashore 2 miles above Fort Smith; Major Ridge and his party disembark the *Revenue*; the boat continues to Fort Coffee (a) (h) (j) (o) (p); Major Ridge's party travels north from Van Buren following the Line Road (h) (p) (z), an old military highway that ran almost parallel to Arkansas' western boundary; they arrive at Cane Hill and head northwest into Indian Territory (u) (z).

A party of 365 emigrants left the Cherokee Agency October 14, 1837, conducted by B. B. Cannon, the physician G. S. Townsend, and General Smith (Carlile 1938; Evans 1978; Foreman 1932; Logan 1997). This group was routed overland through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas (Carlile 1938; Evans 1978; Foreman 1932; Logan 1997). The party included the John Ridge and Elias Boudinot families (Hoig 1998). The Cherokees crossed the Tennessee River October 17, and then the Cumberland River at Nashville, Tennessee. They passed through Jonesboro, Illinois and camped at Clear Creek in the Mississippi River bottoms. The party crossed the Mississippi River into Missouri November 12–14 and traveled across Missouri, passing through Jackson, Waynesville, and Springfield (Carlile 1938; Evans 1978; Foreman 1932; Logan 1997).

- Enter northwest Arkansas near William Reddick's homestead Dec. 23, 1837 (e) (h) (m).
- Camp at X Hollows (m) (z); travel 15 miles today (m) Dec. 24, 1837 (m) (z).
- Take the right hand road to Cane Hill; at Fitzgerald's, halt a half mile in advance of Mr. Cunningham's at a branch; travel 15.5 miles today (m) Dec. 25, 1837 (m).
- Camp at James Coulter's at Cane Hill (h) (m) (p) (z); travel 16.5 miles today (m) Dec. 26, 1837 (h) (m) (p).
- Arrive at Mr. Bean's in Cherokee country (h) (m) (p) (z); travel 12 miles today (m) Dec. 27, 1837 (m) (p); Dec. 29, 1837 (e) (h).

1838

In early April, 1838, 250 Cherokees left the Agency for Waterloo under the charge of Lieutenant Edward Deas. They departed Waterloo the next day aboard the steamer *Smelter* and descended the Tennessee, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1932; Journal of Cherokee Studies [JCS] 1978; Logan 1997; Paige et al. 2003; Sequoyah Research Center, University of Arkansas at Little Rock [SRC, UALR] 2005a).

- Descend the Mississippi River on the *Smelter* (h) (p) (aa) (bb); stop for supplies at Memphis (h) (p) Apr. 9, 1838 (k).
- Arrive at Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River (k) (z) (aa); pass through the White River cut-off (h) (k) (p); ascend the Arkansas River (h) (k) (p) (aa) Apr. 9, 1838 (h) (k) (z) (aa).
- Stop about 40–50 miles below Little Rock Apr. 10, 1838 (k).

- Arrive at Little Rock (h) (k) (p) (z) (aa) (bb); travel 5 miles past Little Rock; water level is very low (h) (k) (aa) (bb) Apr. 11, 1838 (h) (k) (z) (aa) (bb).
- Transfer to the steamer *Little Rock* (h) (k) (p) (z) (aa) (bb); travel 5–6 more miles (k) (bb); keelboat springs a leak, forcing the party to go ashore (bb) Apr. 12, 1838 (h) (k) (aa) (bb).
- Travel 10 more miles after lightening the boat Apr. 13, 1838 (k).
- Travel 50 miles (k) (bb); land at the Lewiston Bar (p) (z) (h) (bb); grounded at White's on Lewiston Bar (k) (aa) (bb) Apr. 14, 1838 (h) (k) (z) (aa) (bb).
- Some Cherokees walk to further lighten the boat, which ascends 5 more miles; grounded on another sandbar about 2 miles above Lewiston; camp on the south bank of the Arkansas River Apr. 15, 1838 (k) (bb); remain grounded on the sandbar; rain falls during the night Apr. 16, 1838 (k) (bb).
- Navigate the bar and travel 30–40 miles; camp at the foot of Five Islands Apr. 17, 1838 (k) (bb).
- Camp at Bohlinger's Bar on the south bank of the Arkansas River, opposite Scotia (k) (bb) Apr. 18, 1838 (k) (z) (bb).
- Stop between the mouths of Horsehead and "Spadna" creeks Apr. 19, 1838 (k) (bb).
- Travel 25–30 miles (k) (bb); land at McLean's Bottom (h) (k) (p) (z) (aa) (bb); camp on the south bank at Titsworth's (k) (bb); remain here Apr. 20–23, 1838 (k) (z) (aa) (bb).
- Start overland from McLean's Bottom following a road (h) (k) (p) (z) (aa) (bb); camp at McLean's Prairie (k) (bb) Apr. 24, 1838 (h) (k) (p) (z) (aa) (bb).
- Camp at the edge of Grand Prairie Apr. 25, 1838 (k) (bb).
- Cross the Grand Prairie and travel 5 more miles (k) (bb); stop 16 miles east of Fort Smith (z) Apr. 26, 1838 (k) (z) (bb).
- Travel 11 miles; are now 5 miles from Fort Smith Apr. 27, 1838 (k) (bb).
- Arrive at Fort Smith (h) (k) (p) (z) (bb); cross the Arkansas River and camp "on the Cherokee side of the River" (h) (k) (p) (bb); ferry the Arkansas River to the Cherokee Country (h) (p) Apr. 28, 1838 (h) (k) (p) (z) (bb).

After the final removal date under the Treaty of New Echota, federal troops were sent to round up the remaining Cherokees, who were collected and moved into "emigration depots" along the Tennessee River to be put into boats. Lieutenant Deas had just returned from conducting a party to Indian Territory and again served as guide to this new group (Carter 1976; Fleischmann 1971; Logan 1997). On June 16 this party of 800 took the steamer *George Guess* from Ross's Landing (King 1996b; Paige et al. 2003) to Decatur, and then took a train to Tusculumbia. Here they boarded the *Smelter* and traveled to Waterloo and then Padacuh (Carlile 1938; Fleischmann 1971). At Waterloo, they switched to the *Vesper* (Carter 1976).

- Descend the Mississippi River (h) (i) (j) (z) (aa) (cc).
- Pass Memphis Jun. 13, 1838 (h) (aa) (cc).
- Reach Montgomery's Point at the mouth of the White River Jun. 14, 1838 (h) (z) (aa) (cc).
- Pass through the White River cut-off (h) (i) (aa) (cc); enter the Arkansas River (h) (i) (j) (aa) (cc); ascend the Arkansas River about 70 miles Jun. 15, 1839 (cc).
- Travel 70 miles Jun. 16, 1838 (cc).
- Pass Little Rock (h) (z) (aa) (cc); stop a few miles below Lewisburg (cc) Jun. 17, 1832 (h) (z) (aa) (cc).
- Stop on the north bank opposite McLean's Bottom 2 miles above Titsworth's Jun. 18, 1838 (cc).
- Arrive at Fort Smith and then Fort Coffee (a) (h) (n) (z) (cc); disembark at Sallisaw Creek in Indian Territory where they are greeted by friends (i) Jun. 19, 1838 (h) (n) (z) (aa) (cc).

A group of 875 left the Cherokee Agency on June 13, 1838 on the steamer *George Guess*. They traveled under the charge of Lieutenant R.H.K. Whiteley (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, State Review Board Meeting [AHPP, SRBM] 2005; Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; Fleischmann 1971; Foreman 1932; King 1996a; Logan 1997; Paige et al. 2003) accompanied by five assistants, two physicians, a hospital attendant, and three interpreters (AHPP, SRBM 2005; Carlile 1938). This group was also joined by Removal Superintendent Nathaniel Smith (Fleischmann 1971).

The *George Guess* descended the Tennessee River and arrived at Decatur on June 20. The next day the group departed by train for Tusculumbia, and from there boarded the steamer *Smelter*, which they rode all the way to the Arkansas River (Carlile 1938; Fleischmann 1971; Foreman 1932).

- Descend the Mississippi River on the *Smelter* (g) (h) (i) (n) (p) (z) (aa)
- Enter the Arkansas River (g) (h) (i) (j) (n) (p) (z) (aa) by way of the White River cut-off (g) (h) (p) (z) Jul. 4, 1838 (g) (h) (n) (p) (aa).
- Stop 65 miles below Little Rock due to low water levels; transfer to the *Tecumseh*, a much lighter craft (p) (z) Jun. 20, 1838 (p).
- Arrive at Little Rock (h) (j) (n) (p) (aa); camp on the north bank at Little Rock a half mile above the town (g); transfer to the *Tecumseh* here at Little Rock (g) (h) (n) (aa); Superintendent Smith returns to Waterloo aboard the *Smelter* (n) Jul. 6, 1838 (aa);

Jul. 12, 1838 (n).

- Depart Little Rock (h) (p) (aa); become grounded on Benson's/Benton's Bar past Lewisburg (g) (h) (i) (j) (n) (p) (w) (x) (z) (aa) Jul. 12, 1838 (h) (p) (aa).
- Depart overland (g) (h) (i) (j) (n) (p) (w) (x) (z) (aa); use a road on the north bank of the Arkansas River (p) (z) Jul. 20–21, 1838 (g) (n) (p) (z).
- Travel the Hickeytown Road Segment of the Dover to Clarksville Road Jul. 25 or 26, 1838 (g).
- Camp at Piney Creek (g); Josiah Giles and Dr. Robert Hodsden lodge at Moreland's on Piney Creek Jul. 25, 1838 (g).
- Camp at Lee's Creek, just north of Fort Smith (h) (i) (j) (n) (p) (z) Aug. 1–4, 1838 (h) (j) (n) (p) (z).
- Enter the Cherokee Nation (h) (n) (p) (w); camp near the head of Lee's Creek (n) (p) Aug. 1, 1838 (aa); Aug. 4, 1838 (g); Aug. 5, 1838 (n) (p) (w) (x).

On June 17, 1838 a group of over 1000 Cherokees set out from the Ross's Landing Cherokee Agency conducted by Captain G. S. Drane (Carlile 1938; Fleischmann 1971; King 1996a, 1996b; Logan 1997). They traveled on foot because, due to drought, the Tennessee River was no longer navigable. They reached Waterloo on July 14, 1838 where they boarded the steamer *Smelter* (Carlile 1938; Fleischmann 1971; King 1996a; Logan 1997).

- Descend the Mississippi River on the *Smelter* (n) (z) (aa).
- Enter the Arkansas River (n) (z) (aa); the water is very shallow (n) (aa) Jul. 20, 1838 (n).
- Run aground 30 miles below Little Rock (n) (z) (aa) on July 22 (z); run aground 65 miles below Little Rock (h) (n) on Jul. 20 (h); board the steamer *Tecumseh* (n) (z) (aa) on Jul. 25 (z) (aa).
- Continue aboard the *Tecumseh* to Little Rock (n) (z) (aa); transfer to the *Tecumseh* west of Little Rock (i).
- Arrive at Little Rock Jul. 26, 1838 (aa).
- Transfer to an even lighter craft and continue to ascend the Arkansas River (z); transfer to the *Itasca* and continue up the Arkansas River (n).
- Run aground on the Lewiston Bar just below where Whiteley's group stranded a few weeks earlier (n) (x) (z) (aa) Aug. 13, 1838 (aa).
- Travel overland the rest of the way to Indian Territory (n) (z) (aa); travel along the north bank of the Arkansas River on the road previously followed by Whiteley (n) (z) Aug. 18, 1838 (aa).
- Travel the Hickeytown Road Segment of the Dover to Clarksville Road (g); pass Piney Creek (g).
- Camp at Lee's Creek, just north of Fort Smith (h) (i) (j) (n) (p) (z).
- Arrive at Fort Coffee in Indian Territory (w) (x) (z) Sept. 7, 1838 (w) (z), Sept. 4, 1838 (w) (x) (aa)

On October 10/11, 1838, a party of 650–700 left the Cherokee Agency at Ross's Landing, Tennessee, traveling overland under the charge of Lieutenant Deas and conductor John Bell (AHPP, SRBM 2003a; AHPP, SRBM 2003b; AHPP, SRBM 2003c; AHPP, SRBM 2005; Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; Foreman 1932; Hoig 1998; King 1996a; Logan 1997). This group was a part of the New Echota Treaty faction (AHPP, SRBM 2003a; AHPP, SRBM 2003b; AHPP, SRBM 2003c; Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; Hoig 1998). They were anti-Chief Ross and had refused to travel under his supervision (Carter 1976; Hoig 1998).

The United States government treated this group well, shipping their baggage separately by boat up the Arkansas River (AHPP, SRBM 2003a; AHPP, SRBM 2003b; AHPP, SRBM 2003c; Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; King 1996a; Logan; Paige et al. 2003). They traveled with a show of pride using their own horses and carriages and slaves (Carter 1976; Hoig 1998).

The Cherokees arrived at Memphis on November 22, 1838 (Logan 1997), where they crossed the Mississippi River on November 24 (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1932). This is the only Cherokee detachment that traveled the Little Rock-Memphis and Little Rock-Fort Gibson military roads (AHPP, SRBM 2003a; AHPP, SRBM 2003b; AHPP, SRBM 2003c).

- Cross the Mississippi River at Memphis (a) (b) (c) (g) (h) (i) (p) (x) (z) (aa); cross just north of the present-day I-40 bridge (w) Nov. 24, 1838 (a) (b) (c) (g) (h) (p) (x).
- Travel through the bottomlands of the Mississippi and White rivers on the Little Rock-Memphis road (b) (c) (g) (x); the road was in pretty good condition that season (x).
- In terms of present-day landmarks: travel northwest along a railroad cut to Marion; turn southwest on Hwy. 218 to Shearerville; pick up Hwy. 70 heading west (w).
- Ferry across Black Fish Lake (a) (b) (c) (g) (w) (x); cross Blackfish Lake using H. N. Ferguson's ferry services (a) (b) (g); Nov. 28, 1838 (a) (b) (c) (g); Nov. 29, 1838 (b) (x).
- Arrive at William Strong's; purchase supplies from him; Strong ferries them across the St. Francis River (a) (c) (g) (aa) Nov. 29–Dec. 2, 1838 (a) (c) (g); continue on Hwy. 70 through the present-day towns of Forest City and Brinkley (w).

- Travel the well-established Little Rock-Memphis Road segment that now traverses Village Creek State Park (a) (b); stop at Dr. Eddington's to sell him some brandy (b) (c) Dec. 1, 1838 (a) (b) (c).
- Pass John Cotton's place, located near present-day Brinkley south of what is now Henard Cemetery Road (a) (b) (c); travel the Henard Cemetery Road Segment of the Little Rock-Memphis road (a) Dec. 4–6, 1838 (a) (b) (c).
- In terms of present-day landmarks: Turn from Hwy. 70 onto Hwy. 302 to Clarendon; cross the White River at the mouth of the Cache River (b, c, w, x); cross the White River at DeVall's Bluff (z) Dec. 8–9, 1838 (b) (x).
- Arrive at Daniel Wilder's in "Munroe County"; obtain corn and fodder Dec. 10, 1838 (b) (c).
- Travel the still-surviving Brownsville Segment of the Little Rock-Memphis road Dec. 11, 1838 (b).
- Arrive at Cy Harris's in Pulaski County Dec. 12, 1838 (b) (c).
- Arrive at Little Rock (c) (g) (h) (i) (p) (x) (z) (aa); remain at Little Rock Dec. 14–17, 1838 (c) (g) (x) (z) Dec. 15, 1838 (aa); Dec. 19, 1838 (h) (p).
- Travel along the north bank of the Arkansas River (g) (z) (aa). In terms of present-day landmarks: from Little Rock, follow Hwy. 365 into Faulkner County and past Conway (w); use the Little Rock-Fort Gibson road (c) (g) (aa).
- Arrive at Cadron (c) (g) (x) (z); travel the still-surviving Cadron Segment of the Little Rock-Fort Gibson road (b) Dec. 21–22, 1838 (c) (g) (x).
- Cross Cadron Creek using Thomas Mather's ferry services (c) (g) Dec. 22, 1838 (g); Dec. 23, 1838 (c).
- Pass the old Dwight Mission (z).
- Follow the military road to Lewisburg, then travel the same roads used by the Harris and Whiteley detachments (g).
- Cross Point Remove Creek (g) (x) using William Ellis' Ferry services (g). In terms of present-day landmarks: roughly follow Hwy. 64 from Conway to Morrilton; ferry across Point Remove Creek (w) Dec. 25, 1838 (g) (w) (x) (z).
- Use the still-surviving Hickeytown Road Segment of the Dover to Clarksville road (g).
- Arrive at Horsehead Creek (g) (x); purchase supplies from A. E. Pace (g) Dec. 31, 1838 (g) (x).
- Arrive at Frog Bayou Jan. 5, 1839 (x) (z).
- In terms of present-day landmarks: follow Hwy. 64 through Russellville, Clarksville, Ozark and Alma (z); turn north instead of going into Fort Smith (x) (z).
- Disband near Vineyard Post Office, site of present-day Evansville (a) (b) (c) (g) (z) (x) Jan. 7, 1839 (a) (b) (c) (x) (z).
- Arrive in Indian Territory Jan. 7, 1839 (h) (i) (p) (u).

The final 13 government-assisted Cherokee removal parties departed their homelands in late 1838. One contingent traveled by water, which included John Ross and his wife Quatie, who was ill. Another group crossed northern Arkansas, passing through Smithville and Batesville. The remaining 11 parties were staggered along a route that crossed the northwest corner of Arkansas.

The water party consisted of over 200 Cherokees. They departed Ross's Landing in Alabama on December 5, 1838 with John Drew as conductor (Carlile 1938; Foreman 1932; Fleischmann 1971; Hoig 1998; JCS 1978:156). This group, comprised of the ill and infirm, traveled to Indian Territory entirely by water on the steamer *Victoria* (Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; Hoig 1998; Fleischmann 1971).

At Paducah, Kentucky they were joined by John Ross and his family. Ross had started out with Hildebrand's overland contingent, but his wife Quatie had fallen ill (Carlile 1938; Carter 1976; Fleischmann 1971; Hoig 1998). The group descended the Ohio River and the ice-clogged Mississippi River (Carter 1976; Hoig 1998).

- Descend the Mississippi River on the *Victoria* (h) (i) (n) (u).
- Enter the Arkansas River in the last week of Jan. 1839 (i) (u).
- Stop at Little Rock to bury Quatie Ridge Feb. 1, 1839 (h) (i) (n) (p) (u) (aa).
- Continue up the Arkansas River (u).
- Arrive in Indian Territory (i) (l) Mar. 18, 1839 (l); Mar. 26, 1839 (i).

The Cherokee removal contingent commonly known as the John Bengé party departed Fort Payne, Alabama on October 1, 1838 (Carter 1976; Hoig 1998; Logan 1997). Bengé was accompanied by the assistant and second chief of the Cherokee Nation, George Lowrey, the physician W. P. Rawles, and the contractor William Shore Coodey (Carlile 1938; Gilbert 1996). The party numbered over 1000 (AHPP, SRBM 2004a; Carter 1976; Foreman 1932; Hoig 1998; JCS 1978:156; Logan 1997).

The Cherokees were delayed at the Mississippi River due to its being clogged with ice; they camped here alongside Bushyhead's and Stephen's parties. Finally, Bengé's group was ferried across the Mississippi River at Iron Banks near Columbus, Kentucky. They traveled through the southeastern corner of Missouri (Carlile 1938).

- Cross into Arkansas near Hix's Ferry on the Current River; use a nearby ford to avoid the ferry fee Dec. 8, 1838 (d).
- Camp at Fourche Dumas Dec. 9, 1838 (d).

- Travel toward the White River, crossing the Eleven Point and Spring rivers; pass by the town of Jackson (d).
- Travel through Smithville (d) (h) (n) (p) (s) (t) (u) Dec. 3, 1838 (t); Dec. 12, 1838 (d) (h) (n) (p).
- Split up north of Batesville; some go into town for wagon repair and horse-shoeing, the others continue west to Old Athens where the party eventually rejoins (n); pass near Batesville (d) (h) (p) (s) (t) Dec. 15, 1838 (d) (h) (p); Dec. 5, 1838 (t).
- Travel northwest along the north bank of the White River, which they eventually cross using Talbert's ferry services on the Fort Smith-Jackson Road (d); travel the still-surviving Talbert's Ferry Segment of the Fort Smith-Jackson road (d).
- Cross the White River and camp for the night (d).
- Travel through Carrollton, Osage, Huntsville, and Fayetteville (d).
- Arrive in Indian Territory (d) (h) (p) (u) Jan. 9, 1839 (p) (z); Jan. 10, 1839 (i); Jan. 17, 1839 (l).

Eleven of the final 13 Cherokee parties traveled through the northwest corner of Arkansas; each followed B. B. Cannon's route from the previous year (AHPP, SRBM 2004b; AHPP, SRBM 2004c; Foreman 1942; Hoig 1998). The conductors for the 11 parties were: Hair Conrad, Elijah Hicks (later replaced by Daniel Colston), Reverend Jesse Busyhead, Situwakee, Captain Oil Field, Moses Daniel, Choowalooka (James D. Wofford), James Brown, George Hicks, Richard Taylor, and Peter Hildebrand. The 11 contingents were staggered along the road, departing their homelands at different times from September to November, 1838 and arriving in Indian Territory from January until March, 1839.

The Cherokee groups traveled through Nashville, Tennessee and Hopkinsville, Kentucky (Carter 1976). Due to ice running in the Mississippi River, they were forced to camp for over a month before they could go across (Foreman 1940).

- Enter northwest Arkansas at Gateway, south of Seligman, Missouri (t).
- Cross Pea Ridge and travel west toward Maysville, closely following present-day Arkansas Rt. 72 and a small section of Rt. 62 (t).

1839

Dr. William Isaac Irvins Morrow, who kept a diary, traveled with a Cherokee party that traveled through the corner of northwest Arkansas. According to the diary, the party crossed the Arkansas-Missouri state line near "Mikes and Sugar Creek," 7 miles northeast of Pratt's, on Monday, March 18, 1839. Pratt's was a store which stood a mile south of Elkhorn Tavern; Pratt's property was part of the Brightwater community (Lemke 1957).

- Travel through Washburn Prairie and then to Pratt's Mar. 18, 1839 (y).
- Storming with hail; no travel today Mar. 19, 1839 (y).
- Travel 15 miles to X Hollows; eat dinner at Hornedy's; travel 5 more miles to Fitzgerald's Station (y) Mar. 20, 1839 (y).
- Pass through Fayetteville; then pass Cunningham's 3 miles from town Mar. 21, 1839 (y).
- Travel 16 miles to Colonel Thomasson's Mar. 22, 1839 (y).
- Travel 3 miles; arrive at Woodall in the Cherokee Nation West, 3 miles from the boundary line Mar. 23, 1839 (y).

Cherokee: Keyed Sources

(AHPP=Arkansas Historic Preservation Program)

(a) AHPP, State Review Board Meeting

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(b) AHPP, State Review Board Meeting

2003b Memphis to Little Rock Road – Brownsville Segment. 6 August:15.

(c) AHPP, State Review Board Meeting

2003c Military Road – Cadron Segment. 3 December:145.

(d) AHPP, State Review Board Meeting

2004a Fort Smith to Jackson Road – Talbert's Ferry Segment. 4 August:185.

(e) AHPP, State Review Board Meeting

2004b Springfield to Fayetteville Road – Brightwater Segment. 1 December:273.

(f) AHPP Program, State Review Board Meeting

2004c Springfield to Fayetteville Road – Cross Hollow Segment. 1 December:281.

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2005 Dover to Clarksville Road – Hickeytown Road Segment. 6 April:107.
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