

Baxter County History



The Wolf House is the most historical building in Baxter County.

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

VOL. 14 NO. 12
July 1988

Published by

THE BAXTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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A TRIBUTE

As the officers for 1988 assume their positions it is appropriate to pay tribute to the outgoing officers. Quinby Smith was one of the organizers of the Baxter County Historical Society which was formed in 1974 and served as the first President and in other positions since that time. Elizabeth Smith who has served as treasurer for some years was a charter member. Garvin Carroll was the first treasurer and continues to serve as a co-Vice President. Millie Tullgren was secretary for a number of years and helped in many ways. Howard and Olive Knight were the first editors of Baxter County History. They published the first issue in the summer of 1975 and continued to assist with it through the years. Helen Tanger continues to serve as a co-Vice President. A major reason for the success of the Society is that at least nineteen charter members are still active with the organization. With the members being added in recent years, we are looking forward to continued success in coming years.

THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

Published by the
BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Regular Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Day Service Center, 222 East Wade Street, Mountain Home.

Active Membership	\$5.00 per year
Associate Membership	\$2.50 per year

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER AT THE JANUARY MEETING OR CAN BE MAILED TO HER. The fiscal year begins January 1. New Members may join at any time.

PRESIDENT

James L. Lowe, 1500 Manor, Mountain Home

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

D. Garvin Carroll, 905 East 4th St., Mountain Home
Helen H. Tanger 367 East 5th Street, Mountain Home

CO-EDITORS

James L. Lowe, 1500 Manor, Mountain Home
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Wick, 147 Mashie Drive, Mountain Home

Correspondence concerning membership dues, orders for the "History", and other business matters should be sent to the Treasurer.

Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to James L. Lowe. These contributions are very much needed. They may include pictures. The originals will be returned to the contributor.

The Society or the Editors do not assume any responsibility for statements made by the contributors.

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS 1988

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP
MRS DUDLEY	ACTON	320 SOUTH COLLEGE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
ONEAL OR BARBARA	BARRY	NOT GIVEN	NOT GIVEN	NO	UNKNO
CHARLES & KATHY	BLACKBURN	321 SOUTH COLLEGE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
JOSEPH & IRMA	BLOOM	R 6 BOX 352	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MRS HAZEN	BONOW	R 9 BOX	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MARY ANN	CARUTHERS	1357 S. DELAWARE	INDEPENDENC	MO	64055
MR GARVIN	CARROLL	905 E. 4TH STREET	MTN HOME	AR	72653
NADINE	CHAMBLESS	4577 BONANZA LANE	DALLAS	TX	75211
PATRICIA R.	COLLIER	326 N WASHINGTON AVE	FAYETTEVILL	AR	72701
LEO & OPEL	DAVIS	R 7 BOX 357A	MTN HOME	AR	72653
WILLIAM HOWARD	DILBECK	7505 COURTINA AVE.	ATASCADERO	CA	93422
MRS JOHNNY	DUNLAP	7837 MAPLEWOOD DR	FORT WORTH	TX	76180
ELIZABETH	ELLIOTT	P O BOX 129	HENDERSON	AR	72653
MRS. FANNY M	ELLIS	7208 E 84TH ST	KANSAS CITY	MO	64138
GENE & MARGE	GARR	1505 MISTLETOE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
LYLE & HENRIETTA	GILLMAN	1116 S CHURCH	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MR ERNEST	GRASSEL	ROLLER COURT	MTN HOME	AR	72653
PAUL & DOROTHY	HARRIS	894 CIRCLE DRIVE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
NAOMI L.	HOLLAN	P O BOX 154	OAKHURST	OK	74050
MRS STELLA	JACKSON	R 2 BOX 85	MTN HOME	AR	72653
EARLE	JOHNSON	1700 EAGLE DR	MTN HOME	AR	72653
HOWARD & OLIVE	KNIGHT	R 9 BOX 482	MTN HOME	AR	72653
ALLEN CO PUBLIC	LIBRARY	BOX 2270	FT. WAYNE	IN	46801
DONNA	LONON	201 AVENUE C	WAXAHACHIE	TX	75165
MR DAVID	LONDON	P O BOX 557	TULSA	OK	74101
JAMES & IMOGENE	LOWE	1500 MANOR	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MRS ALYCE	MARBURY	1500-18 POST OAK RD	MTN HOME	AR	72653
SHIRLEY A	MCBRIDE	4118 BURNING TREE LN	GARLAND	TX	75042
HELEN	MCCARVER	409 HANBY ST	BERRYVILLE	AR	72616
MR JIM. F	MCCLURE	P O BOX 213	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MARY L.	NELSON	R 1 BOX 333A	KINGSVILLE	MO	64061
BECCA	PRESLEY	205 NW MENNINGER RD	TOPEKA	KS	66617
ELLEN & RAY	RAMEY	221 EAST 1ST ST	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MR ERNEST	RAYMOND	136 S WASHINGTON ST	MILLSBURG	OH	44654
MR & MRS ROBERT L	RITLINGER	1501 HWY 201 N	MTN HOME	AR	72653
WILLARD & DORIS	ROSENFELT	NORFORK VILL BOX 22E	NORFORK	AR	72658
MRS FRANCES	RUTHVEN	875 CIRCLE DRIVE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
HAZEL	SKIDMORE	R 1 BOX 33	NORFORK	AR	72658
MR REX	SMITH	3050 NW 70TH	SEATTLE	WA	98117
MRS VERNA	SMITH	937 BAER STREET	MTN HOME	AR	72653
QUINBY & ELIZABET	SMITH	1210 HEATHERDOWN TR	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MR RALPH	STAFFORD	R 2 BOX 524	GASSVILLE	AR	72635
MR. RONALD F.	SWITZER	22310 MORLEY AVE	DEARBORN	MI	48124
HELEN	TANGER	367 E 5TH ST	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MRS PERRY	THOMPSON	P O BOX 95	GASSVILLE	AR	72635
ETHEL	THRASHER	P O BOX 253	LOLITA	TX	77971
MR & MRS E M	TRAMMELL	707 N 14TH	DUNCAN	OK	73533
MRS MILDRED	TULLGREN	1603 MONROE AVENUE	MTN HOME	AR	72653
MR. JOHN C.	TYLER	P.O. BOX 417	BULVERDE	TX	78163
MR ROBERT	UNDERHILL	500 N CHURCH #E 3	MTN HOME	AR	72653

1988 Meetings - January - June

- January 5 Program was a business meeting. Reports of the Research Committee on the Recognition of Old Homes and Kathy and Charles Blackburn, Co-Chairmen of the Mountain Home Centennial Committee announced plans for Centennial events and accepted information of events to be used in a play by the Twin Lakes Playhouse as part of the Centennial observation.
- February 2 James L. Lowe presented a program on the Trail of Tears
- March 1 Mrs. Harriet Brown showed and read from a collection of "Old American Letters Written and Carried by Hand" in the year 1809.
- April 5 Mrs. Robert Bigler gave a book review of "Women's Diaries of Western Journeys" by Lillian Schissler.
- May 3 "Roots and Branches" by Helen Tanger. The members discussed their ancestry.
- June 7 Called business meeting concerning the Historical Society's Participation in the Centennial Program presented by Kathy Blackburn, Garvin Carroll, and Jimmy Lowe.

Identification of Pictures on Page 5

1. Group working on Historic Homes Book. From left to right Ellen Ramey, Alyce Marbury, and Frances Ruthven, chairperson. Thanks to Baxter Bulletin for the picture and Centennial Corner.
2. Case-Shiras-Dearmore Home.
Picture courtesy of Ellen Ramey and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dearmore.
This is the Dr. J.H. and Jennie McFarland Case home built in 1880. In the yard is about four year old daughter, Mayme Case, who later became Mrs. Tom Shiras. Location: 351 E. Fourth St. Mountain Home, AR



The three women are the daughters of the late Mrs. J. H. [Name] and are now living in the [Name] home. They are all very active in the [Name] and are well known in the community. The woman on the right is the oldest and is now 85 years of age. The woman on the left is 82 and the woman in the middle is 80.



The Baxter Bulletin

Saturday, February 6, 1988

Centennial Corner

By KATHY BLACKBURN

Plans are under way for the Mountain Home Centennial celebration. Shown in the photo (from left) are Ellen Ramey, Alice Marbury and Frances Ruthven of the Baxter County Historical Society. These ladies along with several other historical society volunteers are gathering information on homes in Mountain Home that are approximately 70 years old or older with an historical value. Already over 20 homes have met the historical society requirements.

Centennial



Signing Party

Mountain Home's First Official Centennial Event!

On Feb. 12, Gladys Turner, author of "For Love of Jenny," an official Mountain Home Centennial publication, will have a book-signing party at The Studio owned by Eve Strauss, artist for the book, during the hours of 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The Studio is located next to Lofino's Restaurant in the Wal-Mart shopping complex. Gladys' book-signing party will be the first of many centennial events to be looking forward to.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the three main centennial events sponsored by the Mountain Home Area Chamber of Commerce. They will be the April 16 "birthday party," which will kick off with an everyone-invited parade down Main Street, and a centennial cake decorating contest, with free cake and sodas for everyone at the fairgrounds. The children's centennial art contest entries will be on display for your enjoyment.

June 16, 17 and 18 is "Mountain Homecoming," three days and nights of carnival, rodeo, music, centennial displays and children's games.

Sept. 14, 15, 16 and 17 is the Baxter County Fair, complete with centennial displays, carnival, rides, music, livestock, arts and crafts and more.

Clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate in any or all of the centennial celebrations, or to have their events officially sanctioned by the centennial committee. For more information, please do not hesitate to call me, Kathy Blackburn, at 425-3156 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Hope to see you at the centennial volunteer meeting Feb. 9 at Bowen's Restaurant beginning at 7 p.m.

Join in the fun — celebrate in '88.

THE CASE/SHIRAS/DEARMORE HOME

Located at 351 East Fourth Street

Current Owner: Leisure Hills Corporation--Tom Embach

This beautiful home, built in 1880 by Dr. J. H. and Jennie McFarland Case, was occupied by three generations of the family who owned it for one hundred years. It is now owned by Leisure Homes Corporation.

Dr. Case and his wife first came to Mountain Home from Ohio in 1873. After two years here, Dr. Case took his family to New Mexico; the overland trip made in wagons took six weeks. They returned here after three years.

The big house was built in 1880 and the Cases' daughter, Mayme, was a year old when they moved into it. Two of her brothers, Bert and Frank, also spent their childhood there. Mayme was married to Tom Shiras in the house, and their daughter, Ethel, was born there. It was home to Mrs. Case until she died in 1934. Ethel, with her husband, Ben Dearmore, and their son Thomas Lee Dearmore, also lived there.

When Dr. Case died in 1889, Mrs. Case added to the house and ran it as a hotel. The original house was two stories with a large attic, set upon a three-acre plot. A cut stone building behind the house, which is still standing, had a cellar that once held as many as five hundred quart Mason jars of home-canned goods. Also, there was another small house for servants, and two large two-story barns which contained hay, stabled horses, and the family and guest carriages, and sometimes the stagecoach. The property also included a small orchard. The large shaded front porch of the home is now concrete with native stone trim.

This home was built on land patented by John S. Russell in 1860. Successive owners were J. H. P. Wallis, Andrew J. Calhoun, James Lynn, Robert and Tobert Hancock; then J. H. Case, and his descendants. It passed out of family ownership eight years ago.

Trail of Tears

Various private groups in the United States established or marked trails in the first part of the 20th Century. In 1968 Congress passed the National Trails Act which provided for Recreation and Scenic Trails under the direction of the National Park Service.

In 1978 a National Historic Trails program was set up by Congress which authorized a feasibility study for the Trail of Tears. The study which was made by the National Park Service was completed in 1986. The Report recommended that the Trail of Tears be marked. Of concern to us was that the Report specified that the water route be marked along the Arkansas River in Arkansas and that the overland route be marked from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, across south Missouri, and northwest Arkansas to Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A secondary route across northern Arkansas could be considered.

In order to gain information about the Trail of Tears project, I obtained a copy of the Report and wrote letters to the Secretary of the Interior; Director, National Park Service; Representative J. P. Hammerschmidt; Representative Bill Alexander; Senator Dale Bumpers, and Jo Luck Wilson Director, Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department. These letters are printed in the following pages.

The Baxter County Historical Society wants to acquire information which would indicate that some of the Cherokees on the Trail of Tears came through this area. In 1838, few people lived in North Arkansas. It is hoped that government records or Cherokee materials might show the path of the group which travelled through North Arkansas. The Society requests that persons who have information on this subject to contact the Society.

Trail of Tears Study

Information Brochure

united states department of the interior/national park service



A PROPOSED NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In March 1983, Public Law 98-11 authorized a feasibility study of the "Trail of Tears, including the associated forts and specifically Fort Mitchell, Alabama, and historic properties, extending from the vicinity of Murphy, North Carolina, through Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas, to the vicinity of Tahlequah, Oklahoma." This potential national historic trail is based on the land and water routes travelled by Cherokee Indians during their tragic removal to Oklahoma. The route begins in northern Georgia and extends westward passing through nine States and within the boundaries of three National Park Service Regions.



JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
THIRD DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

HOME ADDRESS:
HARRISON, ARKANSAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
2207 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: 225-4301

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 16, 1987

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION—RANKING MEMBER
WATER RESOURCES
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
VETERANS' AFFAIRS—
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE—
RANKING MEMBER
COMPENSATION, PENSION AND
INSURANCE
HOUSING AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
SUBCOMMITTEE:
HOUSING AND CONSUMER
INTERESTS—RANKING MEMBER

Mr. James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your interest in the designation of the Trail of Tears as a national historic trail. I appreciate you letting me know of your concerns.

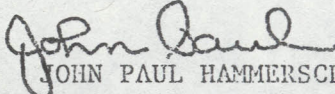
As per your request, enclosed please find two maps of the Trail of Tears as proposed by the Department of Interior. The first map outlines the Trail's route through the nine states of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma; the second map specifically covers Arkansas. Regarding your question on a northern route, I can tell you that at its hearing on this bill the Interior Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands directed the Park Service to conduct further research on the northern route. The Park Service indicated that they would do so; the final determination of the actual trail route lies with the Secretary of the Interior.

Additionally, you may be interested to know that this measure was passed by the House on December 1, 1987, with the Senate passing the amended version of the bill on December 3rd. The legislation is currently awaiting the President's signature.

I hope this information is useful to you and if I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely,


JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
Member of Congress

JPH:rf
Enclosures

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN
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WILLIAM PROXMIRE, WISCONSIN
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
LAWTON CHILES, FLORIDA
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LOUISIANA
OLENTIN N. BURDICK, NORTH DAKOTA
PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
JIM SASSER, TENNESSEE
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DALE BUMPERS, ARKANSAS
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ALFONSE M. D'AMALIO, NEW YORK
WARREN HUDMAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE V. DOMERICK, NEW MEXICO
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
DON HICKES, OKLAHOMA

-11-
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

January 7, 1988

James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear James:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Trail of Tears designation as a National Historic Trail. I was pleased to hear from you.

I am pleased to report that this measure, S. 578, passed the Senate on December 3, 1987. This legislation requires the Secretary of the Interior to give careful consideration to the establishment of an interpretive site in Fort Smith, but does not add to the trail route. The trail corridor follows the Mississippi River in the East and the Arkansas River in the West and the South. I was not aware that the trail went through Baxter County, but I would strongly urge you to contact Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., the Director of Park Service at the Department of the Interior, if you have documentation that the Trail of Tears goes through Baxter County and should be added to the trail route. His address is:

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director of Park Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Room 3104
Washington, D.C. 20240.

Also, I have enclosed a copy of the Senate bill and committee report for you. Please continue to keep me informed of your efforts and let me know if I can help in any way.

Thank you for contacting me on this issue. If I can be of assistance to you in the future, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely

Dale
Dale Bumpers

DB:mtt
Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

75 Spring Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

JAN 29 1988

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58(SER-PF)

Mr. James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear Mr. Lowe:

In answer to your recent letter concerning additional Trail of Tears routes in Arkansas, I would like to direct your attention to Appendix C, Trail of Tears, Final National Trail Study, June 1986. This appendix was added in response to comments during the review of our draft study report in order that additional overland routes could be considered in Missouri and Arkansas. With designation of the Trail of Tears as a National Historic Trail on December 15, 1987 (Public Law 100-192), the National Park Service is authorized to prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan for marking the route and providing interpretive opportunities. This management plan should begin later this year with the appointment of a 36-member Advisory Board by the Park Service Director.

Based upon the previously mentioned Appendix C, I am confident that additional routes in Missouri and Arkansas will be fully considered. Additional opportunities for public input to the management plan will exist. Your letter and a copy of this response will be furnish to the Comprehensive Management Plan Project Manager when that person has been selected.

We appreciate your continued interest in the Trail of Tears and look forward to your future comments and assistance.

Sincerely,

Sharon C. Keene
Chief, Planning and Federal
Programs Division
Southeast Region

Enclosure
Appendix C, Final Trail of Tears,
National Trail Study

THE NATURAL STATE *Arkansas*

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND TOURISM ■ One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 ■ (501) 371-7777

- Bill Clinton
Governor
- Jo Luck Wilson
Executive Director

February 3, 1988

State Parks, Recreation &
Travel Commission

- Ken Bowen
Chairman
- Dean Murphy
Vice Chairman
- Steve Chyrchel
- Ed Falwell
- Jim Gaston
- Karen Lackey
- Cone Magie
- Montine McNulty
- Olden Murry
- Ness Sechrest
- J.D. "Bud" Shamburger
- Ovid Switzer
- R.M. "Mickey" Twyford
- Lee Zachary

Dr. James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear Dr. Lowe:

I share your interest in designating an alternate route or spur to the Trail of Tears corridor(s) that the National Park Service has selected to commemorate the forced removal of the Cherokee Indians from their original tribal lands in North Carolina to a reservation in Oklahoma. If you have information concerning a route through the northern part of Arkansas, I encourage you to contact the National Park Service so that they can investigate further and possibly consider additional route development.

In October of 1984, public meetings were advertised and held at Fayetteville, Batesville and Little Rock by the National Park Service to solicit public comment concerning the development of this commemorative route. The National Park Service explained at these meetings that they were interested in locating primary sources of historical data that could help locate the various routes that were used to move the Cherokees across Arkansas. Unfortunately, only sketchy accounts are available concerning the group that was supposed to have passed through the Mammoth Spring, Cherokee Village, Ash Flat, Harrison and Huntsville areas.

By primary sources the Park Service explained that news articles, plaques, legends or information taken from books that was written at a later date would not substantiate the routes location. What they wanted was information like letters or records written by the actual participants or news articles written during the removal process. No one has been able to provide them with this type of documentation on that route in north Arkansas as of yet.

February 3, 1988
Page 2

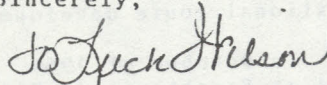
Congressman John Paul Hammerschmit has been working in Washington, on this very issue and he has assurances from the Park Service that they will work with the people of Arkansas to establish a route through the northern part of the state as soon as the route can be identified. You may want to contact his office to let him know of your interest in this project.

Many others like yourself have contacted the Department of Parks and Tourism concerning this subject and we have shared what information that we have with them. Bryan Kellar, State Trails Coordinator with the Department is a member of the advisory committee that has worked with the National Park Service on this project. He will be glad to share what he knows about the Trail of Tears project with you. You can contact Mr. Kellar by writing or calling him at:

Department of Parks and Tourism
State Trails Coordinator
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1301

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

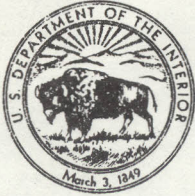


Jo Luck Wilson

Jo Luck Wilson

JLW:rlw

cc: Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt
Bryan Kellar



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. BOX 37127
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L5817(763)

MAR 7 1988

Mr. James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Thank you for your January 25, 1988, letter requesting information about further study of the Trail of Tears as it may relate to other routes taken in Northern Arkansas during the removal period.

The Comprehensive Management Plan for the Trail of Tears which is to be prepared within 2 full fiscal years following designation of the trail will be led by the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service, in Atlanta, Georgia, with the cooperation of the Southwest and Midwest Regions. The Comprehensive Management Plan will provide opportunity for the planning team to investigate and assess routes other than the existing designated routes of the Trail of Tears.

Enclosed are copies of portions of Appendix C of the Trail of Tears Study Report that describes the potential for various other routes as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,

for William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director

Enclosures

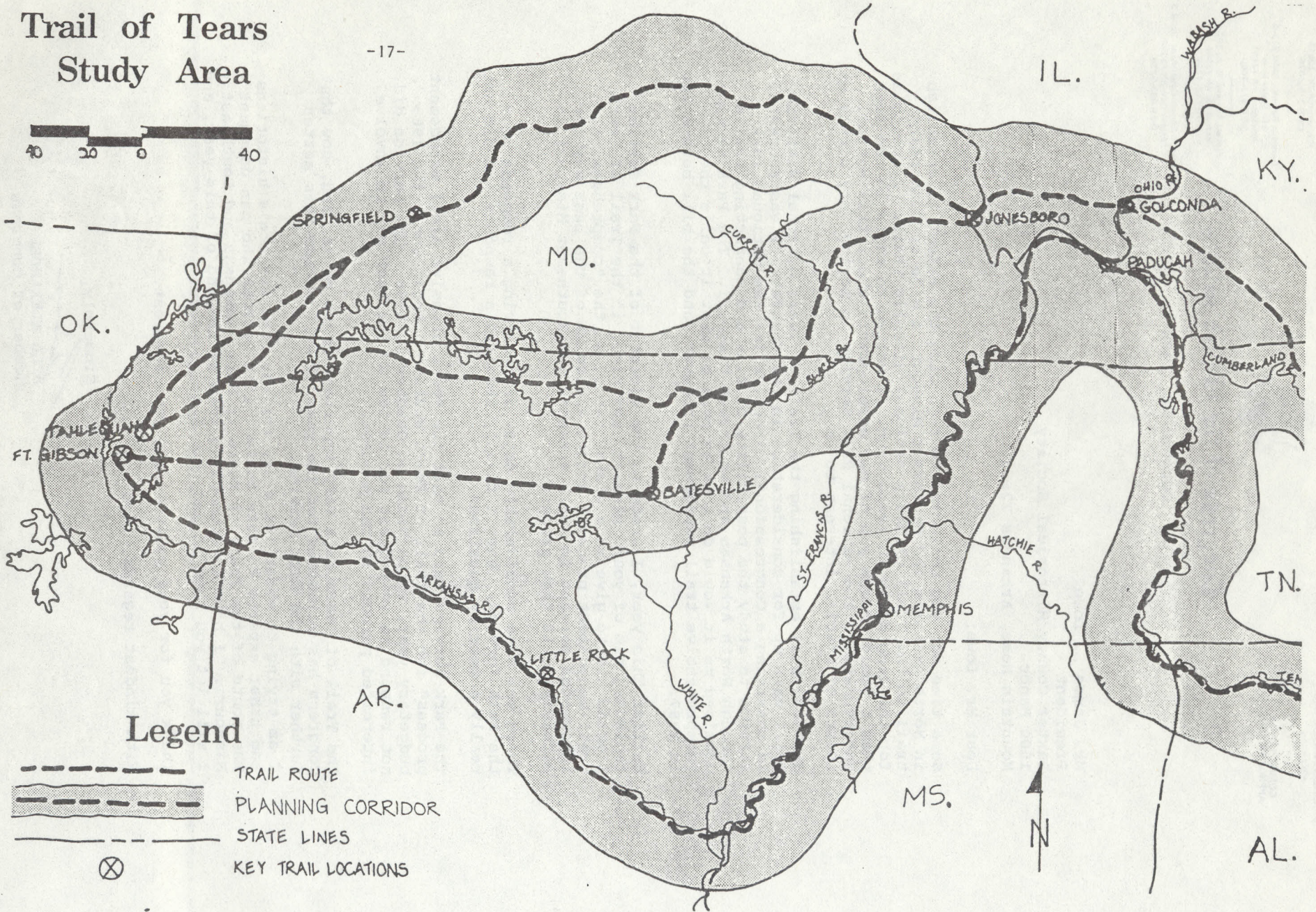
Appendix C
ADDITIONAL TRAIL ROUTES IN MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS

During initial phases of the Trail of Tears study, numerous trail routes were considered and mapped for use during discussions at public meetings throughout the nine-state study area. In an attempt to narrow the scope of the study proposal to what was considered realistic, manageable, and feasible, the National Park Service's planning team decided to select one primary overland route to propose for designation rather than proposing designation of all known routes.





Varying routes are an issue west of the Mississippi River. All parties of Cherokees followed generally the same route until reaching Cape Girardeau, Missouri. A number of comments were received during public review of the draft study document urging the Service to consider additional routes. Therefore, the original Missouri and Arkansas maps are included in this Appendix so that the feasibility of designating additional routes might be considered during development of a comprehensive management plan, should the Trail of Tears become a component of the National Trails System. Designation of one overland trail route should in no way preclude incorporation of additional side or connecting trails to the Trail of Tears in the future.

Trail of Tears Study Area

-17-



Legend

-  TRAIL ROUTE
-  PLANNING CORRIDOR
-  STATE LINES
-  KEY TRAIL LOCATIONS

BILL ALEXANDER, M.C.
ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

-18-



Congress of the United States

October 28, 1988

233 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4076

GATHINGS BUILDING, ROOM 211-A
615 SOUTH MAIN
JONESBORO, AR 72401
(501) 972-4600

FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 202
BATESVILLE, AR 72501
(501) 698-1761

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 3
FORREST CITY, AR 72335
(501) 633-5226

Mr. James L. Lowe
President
Baxter County Historical Society
1500 Manor
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

Dear Mr. Lowe:

Some time ago you contacted me regarding the effort to establish in North Arkansas and Southeast Missouri a side or connecting trail to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. I apologize for the long delay in responding. I waited to reply in the hope that I could inform you of new developments about this matter. Unfortunately, the National Park Service is moving very slowly on issues of special interest to us.

When the bill establishing the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail came up for consideration in the Congress, I was successful in obtaining a Congressional directive for the National Park Service to study the possibility of side and connecting trails through North Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. The Park Service promised me it would do this as part of what it calls the "comprehensive trail management process", and the bill became law in 1987.

Earlier this year, I wrote to the director of the Park Service reminding him of your interest, and mine, in the Trail of Tears. I asked him to give me a status report on the "comprehensive trail management process" and to advise me of the best way for interested persons in North Arkansas and Southeast Missouri to participate in that process.

There was some considerable delay in receiving a response from the Park Service. When I finally received a response, it did not really answer my questions.

The Park Service told me that the "comprehensive trail management process" for the Trail of Tears would not begin until the 1989 budgetary year, which began on October 1, 1988. The Service did not respond to my request for advice on the best way to involve interested persons in the process.

The Trail of Tears is a very important issue to me, and, now that Congress has adjourned for the year, I will pursue this matter further with the Park Service.

I am trying to establish a way for the Park Service's historians and other experts to make contact with persons who can document the route of the Trail of Tears in North Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. I hope to accomplish this by the end of this year, and I will let you know if and when I am successful.

Thank you for your patience and your interest.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

BILL ALEXANDER
Member of Congress

BA/lc

History of Paul Family (continued)

Another source of entertainment that I should mention was the box and pie suppers. Girls would bring a box of food or pie as the case may be, and these were sold to the highest bidder. A girl would usually let her boy friend know when her box or pie was to be auctioned. A boy was not in good standing when he let some one else bid in his girl's box or pie. At the end of the sale, a cake was usually put up for the most beautiful girl there. Each vote cost a penny. These cakes often brought a \$100.00 or more. Mother was winner in some of those contests. Funds derived from these affairs went to some school or community cause.

My first train ride and trip out of the county came about 1900. Father took mother and us children to Springfield, Missouri, to see Buffalo Bill's Show. We went by hack to West Plains, Missouri, an all day trip. We spent the night there with Uncle Lee Paul and went on to Springfield early the next morning arriving there in time for the show. We returned to West Plains that night. I remember well how Buffalo Bill looked.

My next trip was 1904 when I went with my Aunt Maud Dodd and her two sons to the World's Fair in St. Louis. We stayed about one week. I saw many wonderful things that I never did forget.

Father was one of the founders of Mountain Home College and served on the board of Directors for many years. The College was opened about 1890. For years it was well attended. Students came from almost all of Arkansas and south Missouri. At one time it conferred A. B. degrees and was considered one of the outstanding institutions of its kind in the State.

It was organized and built by the White River Baptist Association which was composed of the Baptist churches in Baxter and Marion counties. There were many teachers on the faculty. They had a Fine Arts Department, which taught piano, art, expression, and a full course.

The school was operated many years by the local organization. The State Board of the Baptist Convention for many years tried to get possession of the school. Father and other members of the Board never seemed to be in favor of it. After all of the old members of the original board died, the State Board secured a deed to the property. After operating it a few years they borrowed \$75,000 on it and closed it.

History of Paul Family (continued)

Through the efforts of friends of the school, it was reopened twice but finally closed for good about 1933. It served a wonderful place in the life and culture of the surrounding country. It had much to do with the social and religious life of those who came in contact with it. The influence of the school and those who were associated with it may still be seen and felt.

My first teacher when I went to school was Miss Ina Cantaberry. She was a fine Christian woman and fully dedicated to her job. The school was in a two story frame building, located where the grade school now stands. Only those who lived in Mountain Home or near town attended there since there were rural schools around the county.

A primary department was added to the College, and I went there along with Lee and Norma. Father and Mother were well educated for their time and would be so now. They wanted us to have every advantage possible for a good education.

The first death in our family that I was to know about came in 1903 when Grand Mother Paul died. It was a great sorrow for me as I was very devoted to her.

Mother was a small and very delicate woman, but rarely ever complained. She and Father were a very devoted couple. I never recall hearing them have a fuss or argument. She became ill with T. B. and was sick for a long time. Father let every thing go pertaining to his business and work and remained at her bedside day and night until her death on April 9, 1907. She was a wonderful Mother, a devoted and unselfish Christian. Her memory will always live in my heart. Father never did recover from her death. As a result of his constant attendance, he became ill with T. B.

They were the only two members of our family to die of it that I knew of. Lee had it but recovered. After her death, he did every thing possible to hold our home and children together and did until his death. I was 18; Lee was 14, and Norma was 10 years. Her death was hard on all of us, but I think it was harder on Norma than any of us.

History of Paul Family (continued)

Father tried to keep desirable housekeepers for us, but some of them were terrible. Some of them carried away many beautiful things that Mother had for many years. Some times he hired men and their wives. The men would work on the farm and his wife would keep house. Some of them were awful cooks. It finally got so bad that I took it over myself; they helped some. It was a problem to do that and go to school. I got to be a very good cook. I can say one thing. Things were clean.

Father's health was growing steadily worse. In an attempt to regain his health, he hired a man and his wife to stay with Lee and me one winter, and he and Norma spent the winter in Texas. The trip and change of climate failed to help him. I think he knew that the end was near. He sold the farm and bought the two story house at the corner of East and College Streets. Our farm was a beautiful place. Theodore Johnson who lived to be 90 or more years old told me a few years ago that my father had the best kept farm he ever saw.

He did not live long after we moved to town. We had a party there that night, and he seemed to be feeling better. I had a room upstairs and had gone to bed. The girl who was staying there and roomed with Norma called me. I ran downstairs. He was near death when I got there and died in my arms. He was 59 years old. Mother was only 49.

H. W. Redus owned and operated a large flour mill, cotton gin, and lumberyard here. His wife was in bad health, and the doctor told him to travel with her and camp out. He fitted up two covered wagons with double beds and springs in each wagon. He also had a surrey for the family to ride in. He had two boys and four girls. One of the girls was married and did not go with us. There was another family, Steve Wayland and his daughter went with us. They had a wagon. One boy, Frank, and I were very close friends. They asked me to go with them and drive one of the wagons. We had a tent and cots that we boys slept in. We left here the 24th of May, 1910. Drove from here to McCalister, Oklahoma, down the Katy Railroad to Sherman, Texas, then west to Abilene, Texas, then north to Seymour, then south to Columbus Texas. By that time, it was about the first of September. He sold his wagons and we disbanded there.

History of Paul Family (continued)

In those days there were no paved highways. Often when it would rain and we were in the black dirt section we would carry our tracks with us. The houses were few and far between. Smetimes we would go 15 or 20 miles without seeing a house. There were thousands of prairie dogs and lots of antelopes on the plains. Water was very scarce and hard to get. I have drunk water that I had to hold my nose it smelt so bad. One afternoon it was very hot, and we had been out of water for some time. We saw a small box house. I went up to the house. The lady was lying on the bed sick and her husband was there. I asked if we could get some water. He said all that they had was down in the field in a tank. We call them ponds. I went down there. It was covered with a green scum. I pushed it back and got some of it and we drank it. When you want water bad enough, you will drink most any thing. I have wondered why none of us were not sick, but we made it.

There were times when we were out in those desert places that I felt if we ever got back where I could get on a train I would leave, but I stuck it out. We were on the road from May until September.

Due to the fact that Mother and Father had both died with T.B., Uncle Lee, our guardian, was concerned about our health. He decided to come to Palacios, Texas, and spend the winter. He brought his family, Norma, and Lee, and had me go there and meet them.

There was a Baptist College there. We went to school there that fall and winter. Lee, Norma, and I stayed in the dormitories. It was a beautiful place; a street ran between the dormitory and bay, an arm of the Gulf of Mexico. Uncle Lee, his family and Norma came back to Mountain Home in the spring before school was out. Norma made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ramey. She had a hard and lonely time in many ways. I felt that I should come back to be with her. I came back on May 24, 1911. I was gone exactly one year.

History of Paul Family (continued)

There was not much for me to do here then, only work by the day. This I did. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bodenhamer. Uncle Lee wanted me to go back to Texas. I had had pneumonia several times when I was young and only weighed about 115 pounds. He was afraid that I would develop T. B. I think many others were also. I was constantly being reminded of it. People, I am sure, mean well, but I don't think it helps too much.

I had a cousin, who was in the confectionery business in Texas. I had visited him when on my first trip out that way, but did not know much about him. I wrote him, and it was decided that I buy a half interest in his business. I returned to Abilene in September, 1911, and bought a half interest in the business. I had never had any business experience so I worked and let him look after the business. I found later to my sorrow that I had made a big mistake.

I lost everything that I had first put into it. I later sold Lee and Norma my interest in the property here and lost that along with some I had made and saved there. I think the total was around \$7,000.00. That was quite a lot of money in those days.

We had a nice business, and I think if it had been properly managed it would have paid off. Sales ran as high as \$350.00 a day, but that was an exception. We had a beautiful soda fountain, fine display cases for candy and tobacco. The ice cream parlor had plate glass mirrors around the wall, a piano, and artificial palm trees.

We sold lots of candy; some of the boxes would run to \$20.00 each. We sold cigars by the box and other items. We had a very high class trade. I worked from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. most of the time. The longest time that I recall being up was from 7:00 a.m. on Friday morning until about 3:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Ringling Brothers circus was in town.

History of Paul Family (continued)

W. R. Keeble, cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, the oldest and largest bank in the city, told me he would see me out of my financial trouble if I wanted him to. I declined to take it. After I refused him he wired Uncle Lee and told him that if I would consent to take help he thought I could come out all right. Uncle Lee came and offered to lend me money. This I refused. I told them I was young and inexperienced and that so far I had not hurt any one but myself. I felt that I enough assets to pay the debts. If I took their money and lost it, that would be a different thing.

I found a man who agreed to assume and pay all of the debts if I turned it over to him. This I did. I left there in May, 1912, with about \$125.00.

I had been under a lot of pressure and worry. Some nights I would not sleep much if all. I came to Little Rock and stayed about two weeks, trying to find work. Coming into Little Rock, I took a hard chill. By the time I reached there my fever was so high that I did not know much of anything. I was in bed for several days; I don't know how long. After I got better, I tried to find work but was unable to do so.

I returned to Mountain Home in May, 1912, on a Saturday. Len Bodenhamer and I left Monday for the Kansas wheat harvest. I had very little money left by the time we got there. Less than \$10.00. We got off the train at a place called Conway Springs which was about the size of Gassville. There was a hobo camp near the depot. They told us that there was no work there. We were to the point where we had to have a job. We walked up town. I asked a merchant if the farmers had phones and if he would let me use his phone and give me some names. He did. I went to calling and got both of us a job on separate farms.

We ate a light supper and slept in a 25 cent bed. We went to work the next day. We were on separate farms. The people I worked for were a young couple with no children. I had a nice room and they were real nice to me. It was about two miles around the land that he was cutting with three large draft horses to the binder. It was real heavy wheat.

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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