

ORGANIZED GROUPS OF THE CHEROKEE REMOVAL

PRO-TREATY GROUPS

- 1) ca 60 Cherokees who emigrated by themselves before January, 1837. They were denied acceptance by the Old Settlers and their status was uncertain. Their names were listed in the "Disputed Section" of the 1851 Drennen Roll.

- 2) Major Ridge's group, 471 persons (466 Cherokees and 6 Creeks)
Left 3/1/1837, arrived 3/28/1837 by boat
Conductor: Dr. John S Young
Principal Cherokees: Major Ridge
Stand Watie
Asst Conductors: Abraham Cox
A S Harbin
J M Reeves
David S Walker
Physicians: Barzallai Cottle
Samuel W Doak
A M Folger
Clark C Lillybridge
Interpreters: James Bigby, Jr
Robert Brown
Jesse Hicks
William Reese
Nurses: Catherine Choate
Elizabeth Downing
Muster Clerk: Charles Johnson
Enrolling Agt: George S Massey
Services: John A Jarnagin
Contractor: Williamson Smith
Steamboats: "Smelter", "Knoxville," "Newark"

[Muster Roll in Entry 220, Bureau of Indian Affairs; daily journal of Dr. Lillybridge published by Grant Foreman in the MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL JOURNAL]

- 3) Conductor: B B Cannon
Principal Cherokee: James Starr
355 persons by land (15 died)
Left 10/15/1837, arrived 12/29/1837
Asst Conductors: Ezekiel S Curry
 Jackson Scott
 Thomas P Wells
Physician: Grandville Townsend
Interpreter: Charles Reese
Wagon Master: Thomas Prigmore
Disbursing Agt: Mr. Reynolds
Contractor: L A Kincannon

[Daily Journal by B B Cannon is in Special Files, Bureau of Indian Affairs; no Muster Roll. This detachment was the first to travel the overland route through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri later used by most of the other Removal wagon trains]

- 4) Principal Cherokee: Rev. John Huss (aka The Spirit)
74 persons left 11/11/1837, arrived [unknown]
[Muster Roll in Entry 220]

- 5) Principal Cherokee: Robert B Vann
133 persons emigrated by themselves
Left 12/1/1837, arrived 3/17/1838
[Muster Roll, in Entry 220]

- 6) Conductor: Lt Edward Deas
252 persons by boat (2 died)
Left 4/6/1838, arrived 5/1/1838
Asst Conductor: O G Parry
Physician" Clark C Lillybridge
Interpreters: James Bigby, Jr
 William Reese
Disbursing Agent: Col. George L Massey
Contractor: Williamson Smith
Steamboats: "Smelter" and "Little Rock"
[Journal of Lt Deas in Special Files; Muster Roll in Entry 220]

- 7) 162 persons left 5/25/1838, arrived 10/21/1838
[Muster Roll in Entry 220]

- 8) 96 persons left [unknown], arrived 6/1/1838
[Muster Roll in Entry 220]

THE ARMY ROUND UP

A grace period following the ratification of the Treaty of New Echota in which Cherokees could voluntarily emigrate with government assistance, ended on May 31, 1838. Under orders of Brig. Gen. Winfield Scott, U.S. Army troops and State militiamen spread out through the Cherokee Nation (especially in Georgia). Cherokee men, women, and children were roused from their homes at gun-point, concentrated at various stockades, and then marched overland to Ross' Landing (now Chattanooga, TN). There they were driven pell-mell onto flat boats and steamboats to be shipped off to Indian Territory.

Unfortunately, drought conditions made for low water in the river, so that the boats had to be unloaded in order to traverse the riverine shoals and obstacles. The boats' passengers were put on one of the earliest railways, the "Tuscumbia & Decatur RR" in Alabama, and later reloaded onto steamboats. Thus, some of the Trail of Tears travelers went by rail. There were so many deaths and desertions during the Army-run boat detachments, that Gen. Scott suspended further removals. The remaining Cherokees were subsequently interned in a number of camps and stockades in Alabama and Tennessee.

1) Conductor: Lt Edward Deas
800 persons left 6/6/1838, 489 arrived 6/19/1838 by boat
Asst Conductors: Abraham Cox
J N Reeves
A S Harbin
D S Walker
Physicians: Barzallai Cottle
Clark C Lillybridge
Interpreters: James Bigby, Jr
Jesse Hicks
William Reese
Nurses: Catherine Choate
Elizabeth Downing
Contractor: Williamson Smith
23 Armed Guards (not soldiers, but hired gunmen)
Steamboats: "Smelter" and "Little Rock"

2)Conductor: Lt Monroe

164 persons left 6/12/1838, arrived [unknown]

[Muster Roll, Correspondence of the Eastern Division Relating to Cherokee Removal, US Army Continental Commands]

3)Conductor: Lt. R H K Whiteley

ca1000 persons left 6/13/1838; arrived 8/5/1838 by boat (70 died)

Asst Conductors:

Ezekiel S Curry

Charles Haley

John A Hooke

Pleasant H Price

George R Stubblefield

Physicians:

Robert H Hodson

George D Morrow

Interpreters:

Robert Bengé

James A Brown

Betsey Woodward

Hospital Attendant:

Betsey McDaniel

Steamboats:

“Smelter,” “Tecumseh” &

“George Guess,”

[Journal of Lt. Whiteley in Special Files; no muster roll]

4)Conductor: Captain G S Drane

1072 left 6/17/1838; 635 arrived 9/7/1838 by boat (146 died, 2 births)

Asst Conductors:	John M Barron
	D R Coody
	James Erwin
	J M Havron
	Henry Lynch
	John Miller
	John Rhea
	W S Stanifer
Physicians:	John Hoyle
	Dr Kellogg
	M W A Willoughby
Interpreters:	Charley Crittenden
	David Downing
	William Downing
	Elizabeth Edwards
	Elizabeth Harnage
	Johnson Sanders
	Benjamin Vann
Hospital Attendant:	Nanny

.....

While his people stagnated in the internment camps during the summer of 1838, Principal Chief John Ross failed to persuade the new President, Martin Vann Buren, to change the Removal policy instigated by Andrew Jackson. In September, 1838, Chief Ross signed a contract with Gen. Scott, in which Ross took over complete control of removal of the remaining Cherokees, while the Army agreed to pay his expenses. Chief Ross then hired his brother, Lewis Ross, as the principal contractor to furnish horses, wagons, and supplies.

Chief Ross then organized 12 wagon trains, each conducted by a veteran tribal leader or an educated mixed-blood. This main part of the Cherokee Removal was entirely under tribal control, so most of the records about this best-known part of the "Trail of Tears" are NOT in government files.

THE MAIN REMOVAL

- 1) Conductor: Hair Conrad (became ill)
Daniel Colston (replaced Conrad)
Asst Conductor: Jefferson Nevins
710 persons left 10/5/1838
654 arrived 1/4/1839
(57 deaths, 9 births, 24 deserters)
Physician: Elizur Butler
Interpreter: David Steiner
Commissary: James Bigby, Jr
Asst Commissary: William Henry
Manager: Thomas Foreman
Asst Manager: Michael Waters
Wagon Masters: J W Schultz
A J Storm
Asst Wagon Masters: Jackson Conrad
L P Patton
[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers, Gilcrease Institution]

- 2) Conductor: Elijah Hicks
Asst Conductors: White Path [died in KY]
William Arnold
809 persons left 10/4/1838
744 arrived 1/4/1839
Physician: John F Brown
Hospital Steward: Gustav Chastel
Interpreter: Harry Crittenden
Commissary: John J Posey
Asst Commissaries: Jesse Clements
Jefferson Rogers
Managers: John Keyes
John Otterlifter
Asst Manager: William Proctor
Wagon Masters: O G Proctor
J C S Hood
Asst Wagon Masters: J C S Hood
H L Morony

[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers]

3) Conductor: Rev. Jesse Bushyhead
Asst Conductor: Roman Nose
864 persons left 10/16/1838
898 arrived 2/27/1839
(38 deaths, 6 births, 151 deserters, 171 additions)
Physicians: Dr O'Bryen
John Powell
Interpreters: Andrew Kell
George Wilkinson
Commissary: John O'Brien
Asst Commissaries: John Mayfield
Manager: James Hawkins
Asst Manager: Toowotsahkali
Wagon Master: Jesse Mayfield
Asst Wagon Master: George Starr
[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers]

4) Conductor: Capt. John Benge
Asst Conductor: George C Lowrey, Jr
1079 persons left 10/1/1838
1132 arrived 1/11/1839 (33 deaths, 3 births)
Physician: William P Rowles
Interpreter: A P Lowrey
Commissary: James H Rogers
Asst Commissary: George W Lovett
Manager: John F Boot
Asst Managers: Archibald Campbell
Jesse Lovett
Money Cryer
Wagon Master: Robert Benge
Asst Wagon Master: George W Campbell
Subcontractor (for Lewis Ross): Col J L Colborn
[Payroll of Officers and Muster Roll of heads of families, John Ross papers]

5) Conductor: Situwake

Asst Conductor: Rev Evans Jones

1205 persons left 10/19/1838

1033 arrived 2/2/1839 (71 deaths, 5 births)

Physicians: Charles Isaacs

John Murry

Interpreter: John Foster

Commissary: Christopher Bradford

Asst Commissary: Samuel Hoskins

Manager: Peter

Asst Manager: Kaneta (aka John Wicklyffe)

Wagon Master: Jesse Wadkins

Asst Wagon Master: Samuel Jones

[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers]

6) Conductor: Capt Old Fields

Asst Conductor: Rev Stephen Foreman

864 persons left 10/10/1838

898 arrived 2/2/1839

(57 deaths, 19 births, 10 desertions, 6 additions)

Physicians: Robert H Hodsden

Madison Cox

Interpreter: Samuel Foreman

Commissaries: Ainsworth E Blunt [became ill]

J Davis

Asst Commissaries: J Davis

C A Harris

Manager: Soft Shell Turtle

Asst Manager: Choonoolehhehsky

Wagon Masters: J R Brady

Miles Vernon

Asst Wagon Masters: J R Brady

J Spears

[Payroll of Officers, John Ross papers]

7) Conductor: Moses Daniel
 Asst Conductor: George Still, Sr
 1031 persons left 10/23/1838
 924 arrived 3/2/1839 (48 deaths, 6 births)

Physician:	J W R Moore
Interpreter:	George Still, Jr
Commissary:	Martin Davis
Asst Commissary:	Robert Agnew
Manager:	William Proctor
Asst Managers:	Sap Sucker
	Watt Downing
Wagon Master:	John Weir
Asst Wagon Masters:	William Few
	John Howell
	J A James

[Payroll of Officers, John Ross papers]

8) Conductor: Chuwaluka (aka Bark)
 Asst Conductors: James D Wofford [fired for drunkenness]
 Thomas Norris Clark, Jr
 1120 persons left 10/27/1838
 970 arrived 3/1/1839

Physicians:	Bradford Hamilton
	A M Caldwell
Interpreters:	*James Bigby, Sr
	Dick Christy
	George Owens
	Felix Riley
	James Timson
Commissary:	Anderson Springston
Asst Commissary:	John H Strain
Manager:	Bench Leg
Asst Managers:	Oolayoeh
	Terrapin Striker
Wagon Master:	Henry Wray
Asst Wagon Master:	J E Crittenden

[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers]

* [one of my ancestors]

9) Conductor: Capt. James Brown
Asst Conductor: Lewis Hildebrand
745 persons left 10/31/1839
717 arrived 3/3/1839

Physicians:	Nathan Harris
	George White
Interpreter:	Charles Reese
Commissary:	James Foreman
Asst Commissary:	John Rutherford
Manager:	Thigh Walker
Asst Manager:	John Watts
Wagon Masters:	Hiram Linder
	John Rutherford
Asst Wagon Master:	Alexander Nave
Subcontractor (for Lewis Ross):	Thomas B Emerson
[Payroll for Officials, John Ross papers]	

10) Conductor: George Hicks
Asst Conductor: * Collins McDonald
1031 persons left 11/4/1838
1039 arrived 3/14/1839

Physicians:	John Wilkinson
	Barzillai Cottle
Interpreters:	Avery Miller
	Flea Smith
Commissary:	C P Owens
Asst Commissaries:	Jesse Billingsly
	Josiah Price
Manager:	Thomas Woodward
Asst Manager:	Small Back
Wagon Master:	James M Shed
Asst Wagon Masters:	James Cowan
	Jesse Billingsly

[Payroll of Officials and Muster Roll of heads of families, John Ross papers]

[* one of my ancestors]

11) Conductor: Richard Taylor

Asst Conductor: Walter Scott Adair [aka Red Wat Adair]

897 persons left 11/6/1838

942 arrived 3/24/1839 (55 deaths, 15 births)

Physicians: William I I Morrow

George D Morrow

Interpreter: Archibald Fields

Commissary: T J Fields

Asst Commissary: N Sanders

Manager: James Pritchett

Asst Manager: James Sanders

Wagon Master: H B Henegar

Asst Wagon Master: G W Parks

Chaplain: Rev. Daniel S Butrick

[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers. Rev Butrick's Removal Journal has been published by the Oklahoma Trail of Tears Association]

12) Conductor: Peter Hildebrand

Asst Conductor: James Vann Hildebrand

1449 persons left 11/8/1838

1311 arrived 3/25/1839

Physician; George R McCoy

Interpreter: Black Prince

Commissary: David McKaimy

Asst Commissaries: James Hudson

Ellis Hildebrand

James Pettitt

Managers: Ketcher (aka Ootaneyetah)

Bridge Maker

Wagon Masters: George Clinger

George Hildebrand

Asst Wagon Masters: John Godewin

William Tucker

[Payroll of Officials and Muster Roll of heads of families, John Ross papers]

13) Conductor: John Drew

Asst Conductor: John Golden Ross

219 left 12/5/1838

231 arrived 3/18/1839 aboard steamboat "Victoria"

Physician: John M Kennedy

Interpreter: George Whitfield

Commissary: Charles Thompson

Subcontractor (for Lewis Ross): Houston H Lea

[Payroll of Officials, John Ross papers]

This group consisted mainly of members of the families of John Ross and other tribal leaders who traveled in some comfort aboard the "Victoria", purchased by Chief John Ross. There were also a number of Cherokees convicted of crimes in Georgia courts, who had been released by order of the Governor of Georgia.

DUTIES OF DETACHMENT OFFICIALS

Conductors and Assistant Conductors were either tribal elders (many veterans of the War of 1812) or educated mixed-bloods. Sometimes the Assistant Conductor was the de facto leader of the Detachment. The Interpreters were assigned to assist the Physicians in questioning Cherokee patients. Commissaries and their Assistants purchased necessary food and supplies en route, while the Wagon Masters and their Assistants wrangled horses and wagons. I believe that Managers, who were often full-bloods, were in charge of organizing placement of wagons and establishment of campsites at the end of each day's journey.

The payments for services rendered are listed in Payrolls of Officials for each of the 13 detachments, and are located in the personal papers of Principal Chief John Ross, located in the Gilcrease Institution, Tulsa, OK. There are also lists of payments to teamsters or wagoners, grave diggers, and persons who furnish horses or wagons. The Ross papers also include four Muster Rolls (listing heads of families and numbers of family members). Where are the other nine Muster Rolls? It is suspected that some anonymous collector has copies of the rest, but the Gilcrease Institute is secretive about the origin of the extant Rolls.

OTHER GROUPS

14) Conductor: Hog

64 Cherokees from Valley River, NC

Dates left and arrived unknown

[Muster Roll, John Ross papers]

15) Last Pro-Treaty Group

Conductor: Lt Edward Deas

Co-Conductor: John Adair Bell

660 left 10/11/1838

650 arrived 1/7/1839

Asst Conductors:

David M Foreman

A S Harbin

Ellis Hildebrand

Luther Rankin

Davis S Walker

R L Dodge

J W Edington

Physicians:

Thomas M Likens

Purchasing Agent:

Devereaux Jarrett Bell

Express Riders:

Alfred Edington