

## Bridgeport Hosting Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride® Start

When we had to start the Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride in Alabama in 2008, local business leaders attending a Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce meeting all volunteered to assemble a Host Committee for the ride. They solicited the use of the shopping center owned by businessman Don McConkey for the first ride rally that year. From there a local committee was formed to organize a festival type atmosphere for the "The Trail of Tears Kickoff Rally" downtown with:

- \*American Indian sundown ceremony at the Trail of Tears marker and Walking Bridge,
- \*Vendors, Bands, Historian Storytellers
- \*Fireworks all make up the fun Friday night before the ride.

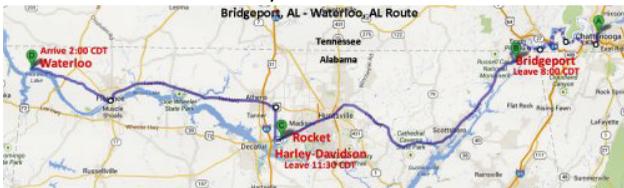
Points of interest near Bridgeport are:

- \*Russell Cave National Monument,
- \*Walking Bridge across Tenn. River,
- \*Battery Hill Civil War Site and
- \*Trail of Tears Muriel Downtown.
- \*The Bridgeport Mayor, City Council and the good Citizens supported this event.



Photo by Jimmy Lovelady

### Drane/Hood Route



CGG (50,000) 4-2014

## Rocket Harley-Davidson

food, vendors, and entertainment

### Also host of free 3-Day Five-Feathers Rally!

(Friday 19th thru Sunday 21st September 2014)

Live music, food and vendors

For Huntsville vendor booking information contact:

Vanessa Branning

Marketing Coordinator -Rocket Harley-Davidson

Vanessab@sfe-us.com or (256) 340-7333



*Thanks to all of our sponsors*

**FREE GAS**

The Mapco Express  
2291 Florence Blvd  
Free gas for Trail of Tears Bikers



Bar and Grill Bridgeport, Alabama

**LAST RESORT GUNS**  
EST. 2011

TRAINING & RANGE

## Ride in style!

Get your official 2014 Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride® Merchandise Buy on-line at [www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net)

### Downtown Bridgeport – Bridgeport, AL

..... Leave 8:00 AM CDT

Riders will start lining up in downtown Bridgeport on Alabama Street at 7 AM CDT on Sat. Sept. 20, 2014 and will leave at 8 AM CDT. The City of Bridgeport will close off the downtown streets to line up the motorcycles.

See <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/bridgeport.php> for more information and events. For Bridgeport vendor information call: 678-RIDE-TOT (678-743-3868)

### STOP #1 Huntsville, AL (app. 87 mi)

..... Leave 11:30 AM CDT

Halfway/Lunch Stop - Gas up/Food vendors, restaurants and entertainment. Five-Feathers Rally - For Huntsville vendor information contact: Vanessa Branning (256) 340-7333 Vanessb@sfe-us.com

### Waterloo, Official End of the Ride

(app. 90 mi) ..... Arrive 2:00 PM CDT

September 19-21, 2014  
Starting Friday at 8:30 AM  
Free 3 Day POW WOW  
Vendors, great food, arts and crafts  
Free Live Entertainment  
Friday & Saturday Night  
[www.waterloo-al.com](http://www.waterloo-al.com)

See <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/townofH20@aol.com> for all the events and times!



21<sup>st</sup> Annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride®



Sept 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

Always the 3rd Saturday of September

[www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net)

678-RIDE-TOT

Brought to you by the AL-TN Trail of Tears Corridor Association, Inc. (ATTOTCAI). An all volunteer, not-for-profit charity organization, IRS recognized 501(c)3 corporation.

Come ride the official Trail of Tears Route, from Ross' Landing in Chattanooga, Tennessee to the official start in Bridgeport and then on to the Certified Trail of Tears National Historical Trail site by the National Park Service at Waterloo Landing in Waterloo, Alabama. This ride is recognized by the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission as the official Trail of Tears Route and was recognized by the Alabama legislature as Joint House Bill 95-346 and signed by the governor on 7-13-1995.

Enclosed is what this event and ride was founded for, and why the 72 Highway Route through north Alabama was chosen and why ATTOTCA chose to Ride the Drane/Hood Overland Route as the "TRAIL OF TEARS COMMEMORATIVE MOTORCYCLE RIDE®"

The Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® was started to both raise public awareness about the Drane/Hood Overland Route and to mark this specific overland Trail of Tears route that was in danger of being lost in history. The Drane/Hood Overland Route runs from Ross Landing in Tennessee, closely following what is now known as U.S. Highway 72, to Waterloo Alabama. The Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® has followed the same route as 1,070 of the Cherokee Indians removed under Presidential mandate, enduring hardships, deplorable conditions, escapes and deaths that ensued along this route to Waterloo since the first ride in 1994.

In 1830 the Congress of the United States passed the "Indian Removal Act." Although many Americans were against the act, most notably Tennessee Congressman Davy Crockett, it passed anyway. President Jackson quickly signed the bill into law. The Cherokees attempted to fight removal legally by challenging the removal laws in the Supreme Court and by establishing an independent Cherokee Nation. In 1832, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee. In this case Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that the Cherokee

Nation was sovereign, making the removal laws invalid. The Cherokee would have to agree to removal in a treaty. The treaty then would have to be ratified by the Senate. Most Cherokee supported Principal Chief John Ross, who fought the encroachment of their land. However, a minority (less than 500 out of 17,000 Cherokee in North Georgia) followed Major Ridge, his son John, and Elias Boudinot, who advocated removal. The Treaty of New Echota, signed by Ridge and members of the Treaty Party in 1835, gave Jackson the legal document he needed to remove the First Americans. Even though the Cherokee people had adopted many practices of the white culture, and had used the court system in two major Supreme Court cases, the Senate ratified the treaty despite knowledge that only a minority of Cherokees had accepted it. President Jackson refused to enforce the court's decision. Within two years the Cherokees were to move from their ancestral homelands.

In May 1838, U.S. General Winfield Scott was commanded by the President to round up as many Cherokee as he could in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. About 17,000 Cherokee were placed in concentration camps near what is now Chattanooga, and over 1200 were placed at a camp in Fort Payne Alabama. Between May and June of that year, over 5000 were moved down the Tennessee River by flatboat to Oklahoma. Then in June, a drought caused the water to get too low to move any more. The U.S. Government knew that conditions in the camps were deteriorating – Indians were dying of dysentery and other illnesses – so the government decided to move 1,070 rebellious Indians to Waterloo, closely following the U.S. 72 route through North Alabama. From here, the official Trail of Tears Corridor that we know today was established; Legislation was drafted to recognize this route and the founding organization, the Alabama Waterfowl Association used their non-profit status to sponsor a commemorative ride, and in following years sold t-shirts and other merchandise to fund the placement of the signs and historical markers currently placed along the corridor. Not only did this raise awareness of this specific route, but it helped raise public awareness of this important piece of history resulting in the deaths of over 4000 Cherokee and the removal of many thousands of Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Seminole on the Treail of Tears.

### Pave a Path to History

Buy a Brick on the Trail of Tears River Walk in Waterloo, AL.

Phase 2, the Retaining Wall, was finished in 2006.

As we continue paving the River Walk with the bricks you purchase, we have also built a retaining wall to stop the erosion of the river point at Waterloo and provide support for the construction of the statue.

Phase 3 is underway with continued construction of the River Walk. The Artist Concept shown here was

approved for the statue design and the retaining wall was completed during Phase 2.

Take this opportunity to buy your brick and help construct the memorial statue honoring the American Indians removed from their homelands and forced west along the infamous "Trail of Tears."

Find the Brick Order Form online at <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/documents/08orderform.pdf>

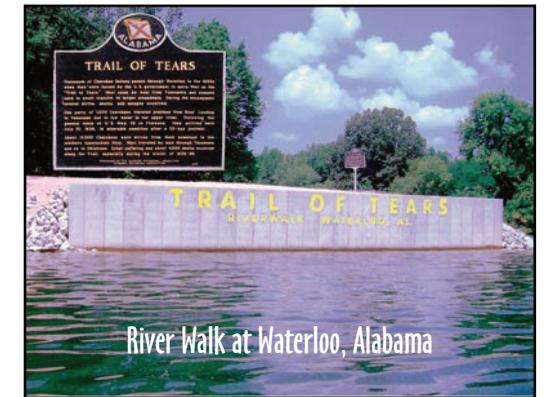


### Aftermath

The Cherokees who were removed initially settled near Tahlequah Oklahoma. The political turmoil resulting from the Treaty of New Echota and the Trail of Tears resulted in the deaths of many responsible for the illegal movement of the Cherokee. But the population of the Cherokee Nation eventually rebounded, and today Cherokees are the largest American Indian group in the United States. Since the first ride in 1994, volunteers have organized the Trail of Tears Commemoration and Motorcycle Ride® following the original route taken more than 150 years prior, in memory and in honor of the First Americans who walked the Trail of Tears.



Town of Waterloo, Alabama  
"Where the Eagles Soar"



For lodging and tourist information contact one of the chambers of commerce listed below, call 678-RIDE-TOT or send request to the AL-TN Trail of Tears Corridor Association, Inc, PO Box 11145 Huntsville, AL 35814

Sweet Home  
Alabama  
[www.alabama.travel](http://www.alabama.travel)

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the State of Alabama Tourism  
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[www.colbertcountytourism.org](http://www.colbertcountytourism.org)



[www.VisitFlorenceAL.com](http://www.VisitFlorenceAL.com)

HUNTSVILLE  
Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www.huntsville.org](http://www.huntsville.org)

THE GREATER  
JACKSON COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

<http://www.jacksoncountychamber.com/area-information/lodging-a-accommodations>