

## Ride in style!

Get your official 2010  
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 CST

Ride will start lining up in downtown  
Bridgeport on Alabama Street at  
7 AM CDT on Sat. Sept. 18, 2010 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](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/bridgeport.php) for more information  
and events For Bridgeport vendor  
information contact:

Larry or Ronda McClain (256) 495-3585  
or email: [big-nose-larry@hotmail.com](mailto:big-nose-larry@hotmail.com)

### STOP #1 Madison, AL (app. 82 mi)

### ..... Leave 11:30 AM CST

Halfway / Lunch Stop - Gas up / Food  
vendors, restaurants, Indian Museum  
and entertainment.

Five Feathers Rally - September 18th  
[www.madisonalchamber.com](http://www.madisonalchamber.com)  
256-325-8317

See <http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net>

### Waterloo, Official End Of The Ride

### (app. 100 mi)..... Arrive 2:00 PM CST

Free 3 Day POW WOW

September 17 - 19

Starting Friday at 8:30 am

See [http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/  
waterloo.php](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net/waterloo.php) for all the events and times!

## At the end of the ride in Waterloo, AL there will be...

Official POW WOW events for families  
Native American artisans & vendors  
Motorcycle vendors  
Miss Indian Alabama 2010

Go to [www.al-tn-trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-trailoftears.net) for more  
ride information on the 2010 Trail of Tears  
Commemorative Motorcycle Ride®.

Ride the official route  
that is recognized by the  
Alabama Indian Affairs Commission as  
“dedicated to following the  
historical route to Waterloo, AL.”

Go to [www.al-tn-Trailoftears.net](http://www.al-tn-Trailoftears.net)  
for more ride information on the  
2010 Trail of Tears Commemorative  
Motorcycle Ride®

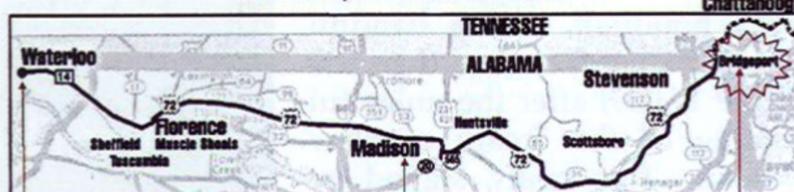
ALWAYS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER

*Thanks to all of our sponsors*



Waterloo Market

Drane/Hood Route



# ALABAMA-TENNESSEE TRAIL OF TEARS® CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION, INC.

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Trail of Tears  
Commemorative Motorcycle Ride®



Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

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

Check Video on why we ride this route  
[www.RideTheTrail.com](http://www.RideTheTrail.com)

Brought to you by the  
AL-TN Trail of Tears Corridor Association, Inc. (ATTOTCAI),  
a 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 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. 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.*

*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 Trail of Tears.*

### **The Bell Route**

The Bell Route, – also known as the Traitor Route by the Cherokee – was used by Major John Ridge, Elias Boudinot, and a handful of other Cherokee (less than 500 of the 17,000) after the unlawful signing of the Treaty of New Echota. This treaty, signed by

Ridge and Boudinot, was signed on behalf of the 17,000 Cherokee who resisted removal to Oklahoma. Although the treaty was not approved by the Cherokee National Council, in fact it was specifically declined; it was ratified by the U.S. Senate and became the legal basis for the forcible removal of Native Americans East of the Mississippi and known as the Trail of Tears. General Winfield Scott was then sent by President Martin Van Buren to force the removal of the Indians beginning May 1838. When the northern route removal through Missouri finally arrived in Oklahoma in 1839, Ridge and Boudinot were found beheaded for signing the Cherokee's land away to the U.S. Government under the New Echota Treaty. The Bell Route (Northern Route) follows closely to what is now know as Highway 64 from Chattanooga through Memphis TN into Arkansas.

Reference:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty\\_of\\_New\\_Echota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_New_Echota)

<http://www.powersource.com/cocinc/history/trail.htm>

<http://ngeorgia.com/history/trailoftearsmap2.html>

### **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.

### **Cherokee Indian James Littlefield**

"It is a disgrace to do a ride down that route in honor of this group that left the area by their choice in 1836 after misrepresenting and signing away all the Cherokee lands - some 6 million acres for 5 million dollars. Many Cherokee will not even ride down the Bell Route in an automobile much less ride in honor of the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears or even carry a \$20 bill in their wallet because of the picture of Andrew Jackson on the currency."

