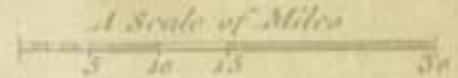


TENNESSEE
 YOUR
PASSPORT
 to Explore
Cherokee
 Heritage

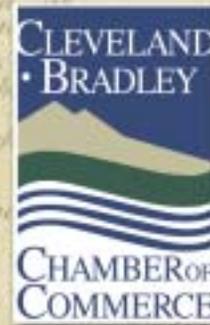


A Story
 That Needs to Be Told &
 A People Who Need
 to Be Remembered

As the River herein called Mississippi River is in fact only a larger Branch of it and runs into it below the junction of the Ohio and Wabash in one Stream together with them.



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As Col. Puckey wrote in 1790 a Full 4 Mile long 12 Miles by which the French Boats might have transported what they pass over the Hills. Mr Kelly a Leader Boats came up formerly to grow

A New MAP
 of the
CHEROKEE NATION
 with the Names of the Towns &
 Rivers They are Situated on
 N^o Lat. from 34 to 36

YOUR PASSPORT TO EXPLORE CHEROKEE HERITAGE

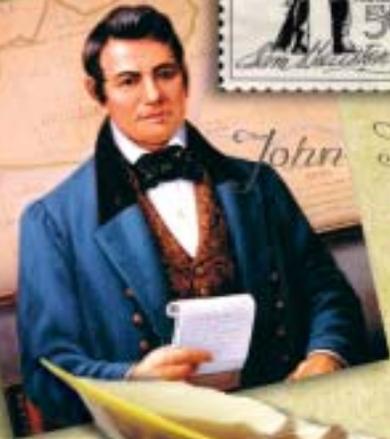


A passport takes you to another land, providing access to explore customand cultures that are often different from our own. In the late 1700s, passports were issued to anyone visiting the Cherokee Nation, which consisted of eight districts and approximately 20,000 Cherokee people. The Cherokee Nation was a separate nation from the United States of America. From 1832-1838, Red Clay in southern Bradley County was the capital of the Cherokee Nation where their federal government conducted Cherokee business.

While Red Clay is an interpreted site certified by the National Trail of Tears Association, other significant sites have sat unexplained to the general public. Many of these sites are in the area of the Hiwassee River.

The Hiwassee River and the settlements on its banks were witness to important and ultimately heartbreaking historical events. Settled around the river, Charleston and Calhoun were often referred to as the twin cities. These two southern river towns in Tennessee may be small, but their place in history is significant and largely untold until now. An important piece of American history was almost lost until the residents of these two cities decided this was a story that needs to be told and a people who need to be remembered.

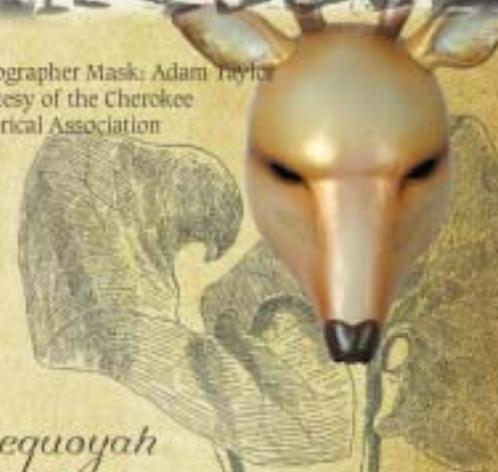
You are invited to begin your own journey of discovery. With this passport, you can explore the rich Cherokee heritage of this area.



John Ross



Photographer Mask: Adam Taylor
Courtesy of the Cherokee
Historical Association



Sequoyah

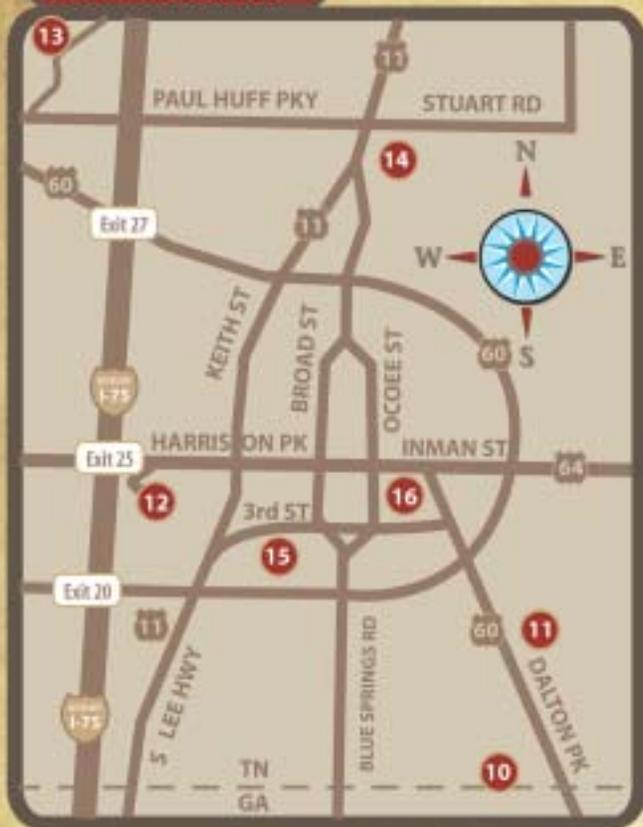
Wild Ginger



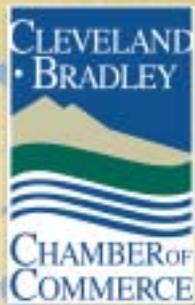
Aquilegia canadensis L.



Cleveland



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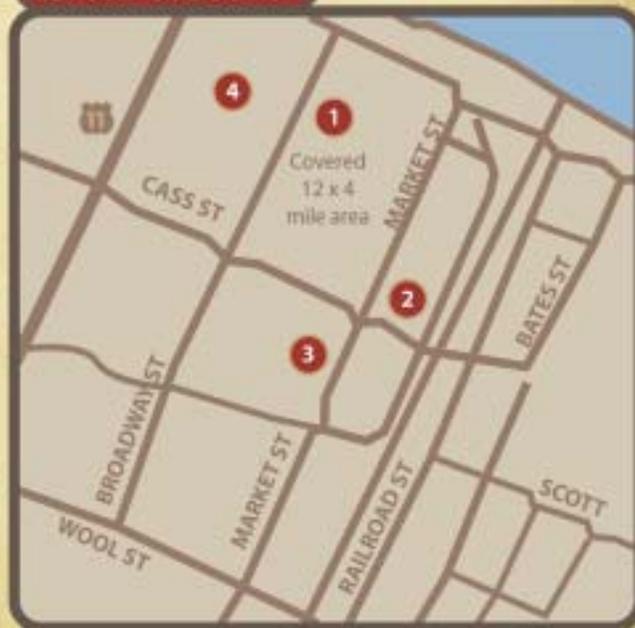
800-472-6588



Calhoun



Charleston



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Fort Cass (non-extant) | |
| 2. Henegar House | |
| 3. Lewis Ross House/Barrett Hotel | |
| 4. Site of Cherokee Agency | |
| 5. Joseph McMinn Gravesite | |
| 6. Return J. Meigs Homesite | |
| 7. Gideon Blackburn Mission Site | |
| 8. Col. Gideon Morgan Gravesite | |
| 9. Sarah E. Ross Gravesite | |
| 10. Red Clay State Park | |
| 11. John Ross Interpretive Cabin | |
| 12. Hair Conrad Cabin | |
| 13. Candy Creek Mission | |
| 14. John "Jack" Walker, Jr. Homesite | |
| 15. Emily Meigs Walker Gravesite | |
| 16. Museum Center at Five Points | |

To Chattanooga



T E N N E S S E E

A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD AND A PEOPLE THAT NEED TO BE REMEMBERED

who

Cherokee sites of Charleston and Cleveland in Bradley County and Calhoun in McMinn County

Charleston

*Along U.S. Hwy 11, 3 miles east of I-75,
exit 33*

Almost 200 years ago, the land around the Hiwassee River was a much different place. It was a thriving Cherokee community with missions, farmlands, stores, and families. The south side of the Hiwassee, present-day Charleston, was once the location of the federal Cherokee Indian Agency (1820-1833) providing protection for the Cherokee people. In prior years (1785 – 1820) and in previous locations, the Agency was responsible for issuing passports for visitors to enter into the Cherokee Nation. The idea of a passport emphasizes that this was a separate nation from the United States of America. This was the Cherokee Nation and the area known today as Charleston was a gateway to that nation which consisted of eight districts and approximately 20,000 Cherokee people. From 1832–1838, Red Clay in southern Bradley County was the capital of the Cherokee Nation where their federal government conducted Cherokee business.

Later, in the fall of 1838, the Agency area was the scene of one of the greatest American tragedies carried out in history, the forced removal of the Cherokee from their eastern homeland on what is now known as the Trail of Tears.

1 Fort Cass (non-extant) was a collection of many encampments covering a 12 x 4 mile area which included present-day Charleston and stretched toward

Cleveland. It was one of three major federal emigration depots where Native Americans, mostly Cherokee, were assembled and held under supervision of federal troops. The two other assembly areas were Ross' Landing in Chattanooga and Gunter's Landing in Alabama. Within Fort Cass, federal troops headquartered near the heart of the current city of Charleston. Troops used the former Cherokee Agency as part of the military post.

Rattlesnake Springs (NR Listed 1975) served as one of the Cherokee encampments within Fort Cass and is the most famous and recognizable name associated with this area. The springs are located off Dry Valley Road on a privately-owned farm operated by the Moore family since 1850.

2 Henegar House
428 Market Street, Charleston

Henry Benton Henegar served as wagonmaster and secretary under Chief John Ross and accompanied the Cherokee on their removal to the west. Henegar returned to Charleston and constructed his brick, Federal Style home in 1849. The home (NR Listed 1976) was constructed on the military barracks of Fort Cass.



During the Civil War, the home was used as headquarters for Union and Confederate generals. **Directions:** Located 2 blocks east of U.S. Hwy 11 between Cass and Water streets. (private residence; view from street)

3 Lewis Ross House/Barrett Hotel
373 Market Street, Charleston

The original home of Lewis and Frances Holt Ross was built in 1820 at the Cherokee Agency (present-day Charleston) south of the Hiwassee River. Lewis, brother of Chief John Ross, was a successful businessman while his brother was the politician of the family.

After the Removal, the house was owned by S.S. Barrett and served as a hotel for weary travelers. Fires in the 1880s and many house alterations have significantly changed the original appearance of the house. **Directions:** From Hwy 11, turn east on Cass. Go 0.7 miles and turn right on Market St. (private residence; view from street)

4 Cherokee Agency (1820 – 1833)
Broadway Street, Charleston

The site of the Cherokee Agency is believed to have been located on a hill across the spring from the Henegar House. Structures presently sit on the Cherokee Agency property that may or may not have existed during removal. More research is needed to confirm the history of the structures themselves. This site features an ideal vantage point with views of the Hiwassee River and the



site of Fort Cass. Return J. Meigs served as the Indian Agent from 1801 – 1823 and in Charleston from 1820 – 1823. Tennessee Governor Joseph McMinn was also Indian Agent from 1823 to his death in 1824.

Directions: From Hwy 11 in Charleston, turn right on Cass St, then left on Broadway St. Hillside along left side of Broadway.

Calhoun

Three miles east of I-75, exit 36 in McMinn County, north of the Hiwassee River

Calhoun served as the home to Indian Agents Return J. Meigs and Joseph McMinn in the early 1820s and as a town that bordered the Cherokee Nation.

Joseph McMinn Gravesite

5 *North Main Street, Calhoun*

Joseph McMinn served as Governor of Tennessee from 1815 to 1821, and was President Andrew Jackson's ally in the effort to remove the Cherokees. McMinn County, which bears his name, was formed out of the Hiwassee Purchase in 1819 as part of the Cherokee land sales that McMinn was instrumental in organizing. In 1823, McMinn was made Indian Agent and was stationed at the Agency in Charleston where he died at his desk in 1824. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and had requested that when he died, he be buried with his feet at the front steps of the church so he could be the first in on Resurrection Day. His grave is marked by a 12-foot tall obelisk in Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery. **Directions:** Hwy 11 north to Calhoun. Turn right Hwy. 163 (Etowah Rd), Left on N. Main St.

6 R. J. Meigs Home Site

Main Street, Calhoun

Col. Return J. Meigs was a Revolutionary War Hero and Cherokee Indian Agent from 1801 until 1823. A marker is located on Calhoun's Main Street about 100 yards south of the McMinn gravesite indicating that at one time his home was in the area. He died in Calhoun

in 1823. The DAR erected this marker in 1930.

Directions: Hwy 11 north to Calhoun. Turn right Hwy. 163 (Etowah Rd), right on Main St.

Gideon Blackburn Mission Site

North Main Street, Calhoun

7 The Cherokee Mission was established circa 1804 by Gideon Blackburn, who was considered the first missionary to the Cherokee Indians. It was located at the current Shiloh Presbyterian Cemetery. This was also the site of the Presbyterian Church which was destroyed by Union troops during the Civil War. **Directions:** Hwy 11 north to Calhoun. Turn right Hwy. 163 (Etowah Rd), Left on N. Main.

Col. Gideon Morgan Gravesite

820 Highway 163, Calhoun

8 Morgan served under General Andrew Jackson in his battles against the Creeks in the early 1813-1814. Allying with the Cherokee during the Creek War, Morgan was well acquainted with Chief John Ross and other notable Cherokees. He is buried in the Calhoun Community Cemetery where the inscription on his tombstone reads "73 years old". **Directions:** From Charleston, take Hwy 11 north to Calhoun. Turn right Hwy. 163 (Etowah Rd), then right on Church St.

Sarah Elizabeth Ross Gravesite

820 Highway 163, Calhoun

9 In the cemetery of Calhoun Methodist Church is the grave of Sarah Elizabeth Ross, the 2-year-old daughter of Cherokee businessman Lewis Ross and niece of Chief John Ross. Sarah fell ill and died while the family was living near Calhoun in 1824. **Directions:** Hwy 11 north to Calhoun. Turn right on Hwy. 163 (Etowah Rd), then right on Church St.



Cleveland & Bradley County Sites

Red Clay State Park

1140 Red Clay Park, Cleveland

10 Red Clay served as the capital and last council ground of the Cherokee Nation from 1832-1838. Prior to 1832, the Cherokee capital was located in New Echota until the state of Georgia removed their political sovereignty and ceased Cherokee meetings. At the Red Clay Council Grounds (NR listed 1972), a proposed treaty with the United States in October 1835 was unanimously rejected by the Cherokee. Chief John Ross led the movement for the Cherokee to remain in the Eastern lands and refused their removal to Oklahoma. Red Clay State Historical Park is a certified interpretive site on the Trail of Tears. The park features replicas of a Cherokee farmhouse, cabins and council house as well as an interpretive center with exhibits and artifacts. A sapphire-blue spring produces over 400,000 gallons of water each day. Picnic areas and a two-mile loop invite visitors to make a day of their Red Clay visit. **Directions:** Follow Hwy. 60/Dalton Pike south from Cleveland 12 miles. Turn right on Weatherly Switch Rd and follow signs to park.

11 John Ross Interpretive Cabin

Red Hill Valley Rd, Cleveland

A cabin, located four miles southwest of the Red Clay Council Grounds is a replica of one of the log structures that served as the last homeplace of Chief John Ross east of the Mississippi River. At this home, Chief Ross and John Howard Payne, author of "Home Sweet Home," were arrested and sent to Spring Place, Georgia where they were briefly imprisoned in November 1835. The cabin, likely along with other structures, served as the last home for John Ross and his family until their removal to Oklahoma. **Directions:** Follow Hwy. 60/Dalton Pike south from Cleveland. Turn left onto Flint Springs Rd, then left onto Red Hill Valley Rd. Cabin is ahead on left.

12 Hair Conrad Cabin

433 Blythewood Rd SW, Cleveland

Hair Conrad, a Cherokee, constructed his single-pen log dwelling circa 1804. Adopting Euro-American building practices, Conrad also became assimilated with the Euro-American culture. Conrad served as a delegate to the Cherokee Constitutional Convention in 1827 and the National Committee of the Cherokee Nation in 1836. In 1838, Hair Conrad led one of the first detachments of approximately 700 Cherokee from the Rattlesnake Springs area to Oklahoma. The cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NR listed 1976, revised 1990). **Directions:** From Hwy 11 (Keith St) at the Intersection of Inman and Harrison Pike, go west on Harrison Pike. Turn left on Blythewood Rd. Cabin on left. (private property; shown by appointment, 423-476-8942).

13 Candy Creek Mission (non-extant) was first established in February 1825 by William and Electra Holland, husband and wife missionaries from Brainerd Mission in present-day Chattanooga. Two of the mission's students, Jesse Bushyhead and Stephen Foreman, became prominent ministers among the Cherokees. The site along present-day Candies Creek Ridge Road is on private property.

Directions: Located 0.4 of a mile east of the US Hwy 60 and Candies Creek Ridge Rd. The site where the mission stood is directly across the road from a large covered spring.

14 John "Jack" Walker, Jr. Homeplace

US 11 and Paul Huff Parkway, Cleveland

John "Jack" Walker, Jr. was the son of Major John Walker, a veteran who fought with Andrew Jackson at the battle of Horseshoe Bend and the grandson of Nancy Ward. His two wives were Nancy "Nannie" Bushyhead who lived with her brother Rev. Jesse Bushyhead (at the

Bushyhead homeplace located in the area of present-day Cleveland High School), and Emily Stanfield Meigs Walker, the granddaughter of Indian Agent Return J. Meigs. In Cherokee culture, having two wives was not uncommon for a man of status. His two-story log house was located at the current site of Northside Presbyterian Church. A historical marker designating the location of the home is located near the church. As a member of the Removal Party, Jack Walker believed that the only way for his people to maintain independence was to sell their ancestral lands and move west to the federal reservations. Some Anti-Removal Cherokee called for the assassinations of Removal Party members including Jack Walker. **Directions:** Exit 27 and follow Paul Huff Pky. east into Cleveland. Turn right, heading south, onto US 11. The church is immediately on left.

15 Emily Meigs Walker Gravesite

Fort Hill Cemetery, Worth Street, Cleveland

Emily Stanfield Meigs Walker was born on Oct. 25, 1808 to Timothy and Elizabeth Meigs. Timothy Meigs was the son of Return Jonathan Meigs, Indian Agent to the Cherokee and Revolutionary War hero. The close relationship Emily's family built with the Cherokee through her grandfather led to her marriage to John "Jack" Walker, Jr. on Jan. 10, 1824. They established their home in the Amohee district (present day northern Bradley County) of the Cherokee Nation. The marriage ended in tragedy with the murder of Jack by James Forman in August 1834. According to her grave stone, Emily died at the age of 82 and is buried at Fort Hill cemetery.

Directions: I-75 Exit 20. Take first exit ramp to US 11. Turn left onto US 11 (S. Lee Hwy) and proceed north. At traffic light, merge right onto 3rd St then right onto Worth.

16 Museum Center at Five Points

200 Inman Street, Cleveland

The museum's permanent exhibit, the *River of Time*, features a section on the pre-historic native peoples that lived in this region prior to the Cherokee with archaeological artifacts on display. There is also a small section on the Cherokee and the Trail of Tears. The Museum Store features books on Cherokee history topics, as well as a selection of Cherokee pottery.

Directions: I-75 Exit 20. Take first exit ramp to US 11. Turn left onto US 11 (S. Lee Hwy) and proceed north to Inman St. Turn right on Inman. Museum on right at fourth traffic light.

