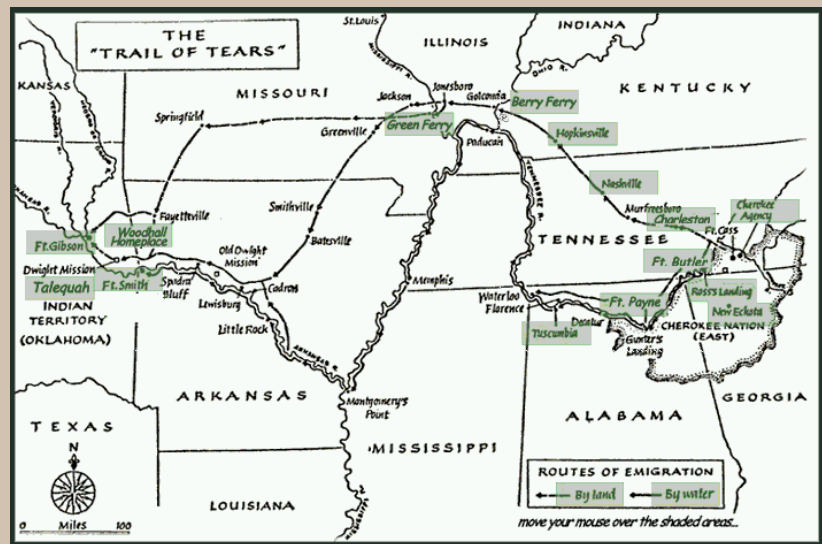


Unicoi Turnpike Trail

Side Trip

13. Trail of Tears



Then - In 1838 the U.S. government, under President Andrew Jackson, enforced a controversial treaty to relocate Cherokee Indians to Indian Territory in the West. The long, arduous trip became known as the Trail of Tears. Forts were established in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia to hold Cherokees prior to deportation. More than 3,000 Cherokees in North Carolina were held at Fort Butler, near present day Murphy. From there they traveled on the Unicoi Turnpike to Coker Creek, encamping at Fort Armistead. After leaving Coker Creek, they passed through Tellico Plains, following the Conasauga Creek Valley through Mecca, and then passing somewhere near present day Etowah and Englewood and on to Athens. From Athens they continued south to Fort Cass, located near present day Charleston and Calhoun to await deportation. From Fort Cass, they traveled to the Tennessee River, where they camped at Blythe's Ferry before leaving their homeland behind.

See Trail Map for location

Now – Work is underway to determine the exact route the Trail of Tears took from Coker Creek through Monroe and McMinn counties to Charleston.