

Our Mission:

- Protect and preserve the Trail of Tears in Illinois and serve as a voice for this historic resource
- Promote awareness of the historic legacy associated with the Trail of Tears
- Work with the National Trail of Tears Association, federal and state agencies to develop, certify, and interpret sites
- Continue to research and gather information related to the Trail of Tears experience
- Offer outreach and educational opportunities related to the Trail

For additional information:

www.illinoisrailoftears.org

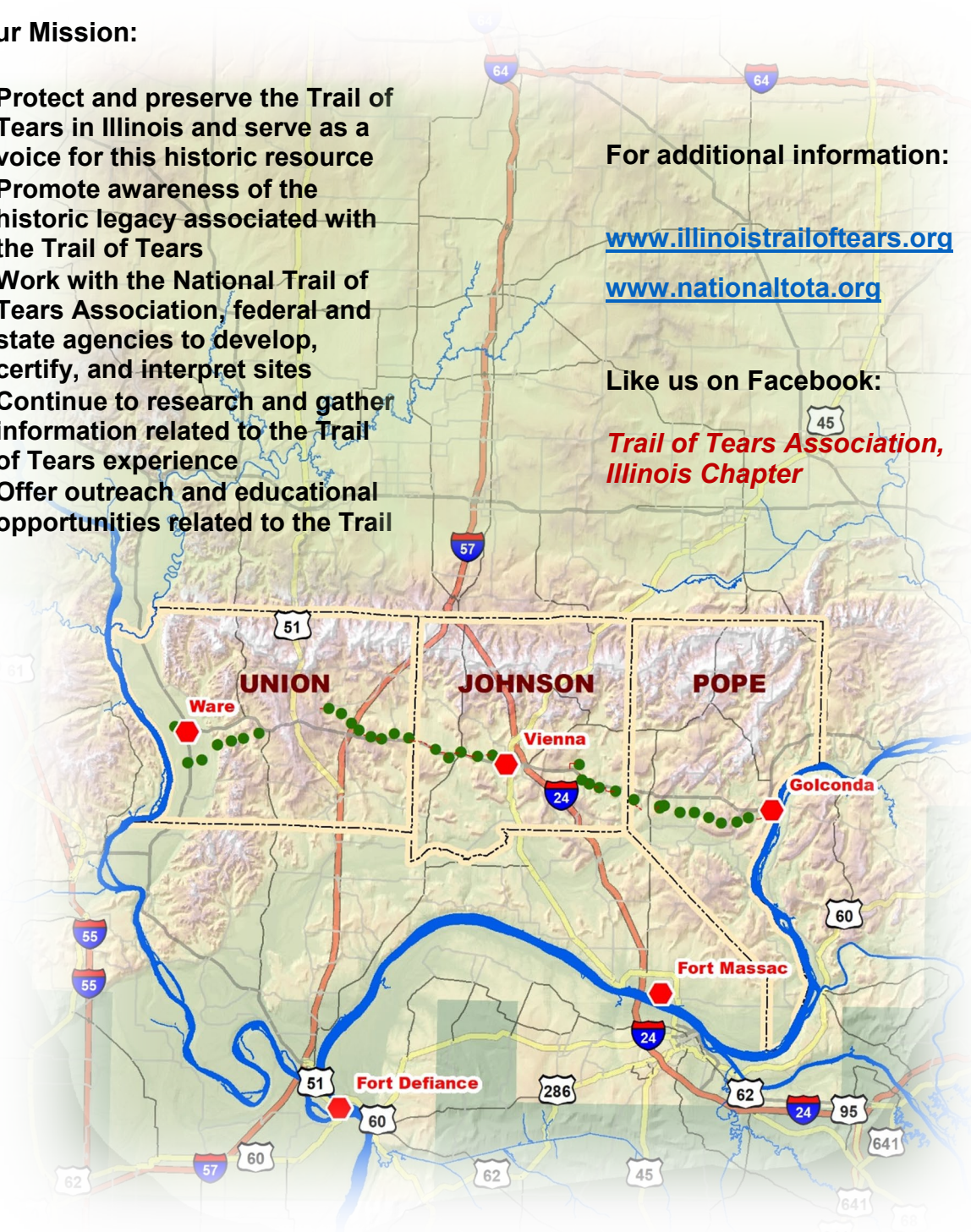
www.nationaltota.org

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*Trail of Tears Association,
Illinois Chapter*



*Illinois Chapter of the
Trail of Tears Association*



Trail of Tears in southern Illinois: As part of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, eleven Cherokee detachments left their homelands during the fall of 1838 and set out towards Oklahoma territory along what is now referred to as the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears. Part of this route included a nearly sixty-mile trek across southern Illinois along the Golconda-Cape Girardeau Trace, from the Ohio River at Golconda to the Mississippi River west of present-day Ware, Illinois. The eleven detachments taking this overland route met with an early and harsh winter and the journey took more than a month for seven of the detachments to traverse. By the end of December 1838, temperatures became cold enough to cause ice to block crossing the Mississippi River for several days. Many of the Cherokee were inadequately clothed and unprepared for such harsh conditions.

Pope County: The Cherokee crossed the Ohio River from Kentucky to the mouth of Lusk Creek using Berry's Ferry at the small river town of Golconda. Southwest of Golconda traces of the original route still exist on private property. Just before the Trail crosses Miller Creek, it winds around bottom land and emerges to join present day Hamberg Road south of Illinois Route 146.

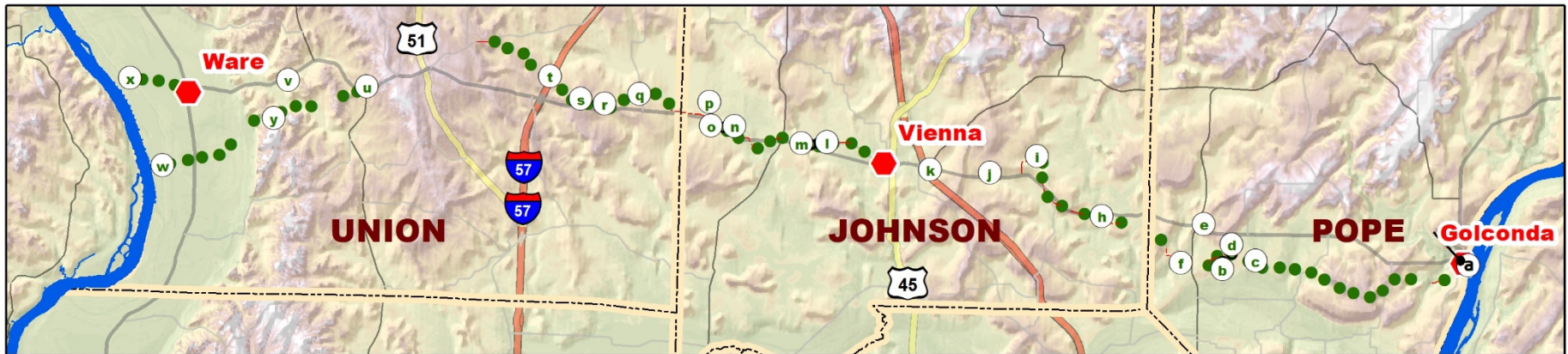
The Trail then continues in a westerly direction about one mile until it veers to the right, on present day Trail of Tears Road. The Cherokee followed the Old Golconda Road through Old Brownfield and camped at Allen Springs, then continuing west to later camp just south of Dixon Springs. At this point, the Trail goes through a wooded area for almost a mile where it rejoins present day Grasty Road and continues on across Illinois Route 145. It then crosses Sugar Creek on private property before entering Shawnee National Forest land. The Trail exits Hound Ridge Road 300 yards to the north.

Johnson County: The detachments continued into Johnson County where they turned north to avoid the swamps and camped near present day Grantsburg on Bay Creek. The groups weaved south along what is now Route 146 to the small community of Wartrace. After leaving this area they continued on along the old Golconda to Vienna Road. As they approached Vienna, camp was made on McCorkle Creek. It was here that Rev. Daniel Butrick's group learned of the ice jam on the Mississippi River. The detachments then traveled on past Vienna along the section of road known as the Vienna to Jonesboro Road, which closely follows today's Illinois Route 146.

Another camp was erected along this route at Dutchman Creek. The weather was very harsh on the travelers and made progress slow. They continued west through the Cache River bottoms to the Buckrun Creek/Pleasant Grove area where they camped for several days before continuing into Union County.

Union County: Entering Union County, they passed through Pleasant Grove and Mt. Pleasant to the site of the present-day Camp Ground Church. This was a common campground for travelers, and it is likely that many of the detachments stopped and camped here and perhaps buried their dead near an existing small family cemetery. The detachments followed Camp Ground Road to Old Saratoga Road, and on into Jonesboro. Here they split, with a few groups heading south out of Jonesboro, over Hamburg Hill to Hamburg Landing where they crossed the Mississippi River. Most detachments though went slightly north, camped along Dutch Creek on the Morgan Farm and later proceeded to Willard's Landing. Ferries of the time could only hold small loads, therefore it took several days for each detachment to cross the river.

Locator Key to Confirmed Sites on Trail



	Town		River
	TOT Site		County
	Route (public)		
	Route (private)		

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| q Mt. Pleasant | v Dutch Creek Camp | h Bay Creek Camp | l Dutchman Creek Camp | a Berry's Ferry | d John Farmer Home |
| r McGinnis Cemetery | w Hamburg Landing | i Pleasant Rose Home | m Carlton Spring | b Allen Springs | e Dixon Springs |
| s Toler Farm | x Willard's Landing | j Lula Gillespie Home | n Bridges Tavern | c Theopholis Scott Home | f Sugar Creek Ford |
| t Camp Ground Cemetery | y Hamburg Hill | k McCorkle Creek Camp | o Buckrun Creek Camp | | |
| u Jonesboro Square | | | | | |