

**170th ANNIVERSARY of the TRAIL of TEARS
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Treaty of New Echota was signed on December 29, 1835 by a small group of Cherokees unauthorized by the Cherokee government and against the will of the majority of Cherokees in their homeland; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of New Echota ceded the remaining Cherokee territory east of the Mississippi to the United States in return for five million dollars and land west of the Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of New Echota was ratified by Congress on May 23, 1836 by a single vote and removal set to occur within two years from that date; and

WHEREAS, Chief John Ross continued to fight even as late as the spring of 1838 for the right of his people to remain in their homeland; and

WHEREAS, in 1838 the U.S. government built 10 fortified posts and 4 unfortified posts in Georgia to aid with the removal process; and

WHEREAS, General Winfield Scott gave the order for removal from Georgia to begin on May 26, 1838 and ordered that all Cherokees be rounded-up and brought to the nearest fortified post; from there they were taken to departure points in Tennessee and Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1838 Gen. Charles Floyd reported to Gen. Scott that no Indians were left in Georgia except those too sick to travel; and

WHEREAS, of the approximately 17,000 Cherokees removed from the Southeast, between 2000 and 4000 perished during or as a result of removal; and

WHEREAS, 2008 marks the 170th anniversary of the removal of the Cherokee from Georgia and the beginning of the "Trail of Tears"; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the dedication of many individuals, civic leaders, city and county officials in Jasper and Pickens County, the Marble Valley Historical Society, the Trail of Tears Association and its Georgia chapter, and the National Park Service to make sure that this tragic event in our history is never forgotten and extend our heartfelt thanks for their continued commitment to historic preservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the year 2008 is hereby designated as the 170th Anniversary of the Trail of Tears in the city of Jasper, Pickens County, in the state of Georgia.

Adopted this _____ Day of _____, 2008.

Chief Elected Official

Clerk