





In 1835, the most infamous of the treaties was negotiated at New Echota, Georgia, the Cherokee capital. The treaty was never ratified, but less than three years later federal troops began to round up the eighteen thousand Cherokees who lived on the land. By riverboat, wagon andhorseback - but mainly on foot - the Cherokee began their forced exile across the Mississippi. Over four thousand men, women, and children died on that fateful journey. The silent graves stretching from the foothills of the Smoky Mountains to their new territory in the West, mark what has come to be known to the Cherokee as the **TRAIL OF TEARS**.

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