

Vicki Rozema. *Footsteps of the Cherokees: A Guide to the Eastern Homelands of the Cherokee Nation*. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 2007. 394 pp. \$21.95
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Footsteps of the Cherokees: A Guide to the Eastern Homelands of the Cherokee Nation presents readers with a historical overview of Cherokee Indian life before their forced removal to the West in 1838, an event known as the Trail of Tears. The book also serves as a guidebook to key Cherokee cultural sites that are located in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama.

Before 1838, the Cherokee Indians attempted to co-exist with white settlers who were moving westward in search of available land, hunting areas, and rich resources such as gold. Influential Cherokee tribal leaders like John Ross and Sequoyah tried to negotiate treaties with settlers and formulate an alphabet for the Cherokee Indians, respectively. The Cherokee also learned from settlers how to cultivate corn, beans, squash, and tobacco. Unfortunately, through a succession of different treaties, most notably the *Treaty of New Echota* (1835), the Cherokee tribe was forced to cede large portions of their ancestral lands. When the government gave removal orders, a small contingent of Cherokee Indians chose to resist and sought refuge in the Blue Ridge Mountains. A large majority of the Cherokee, though, made the fateful journey to the West and succumbed to starvation or disease en route to their new home in Oklahoma.

Author Vicki Rozema divides her book into two parts: a brief history of the Cherokee tribe and a guide to cultural sites. In this second addition, Rozema includes over 190 photographs and provides area maps for each Cherokee Indian cultural site discussed in the book. An extensive bibliography of both primary and secondary sources is provided for easy reference. Driving directions, applicable fees, and cross-references are listed where necessary. As a matter of general interest, many of the sites mentioned by the author have been designated by the National Park Service as key stops along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Besides *Footsteps of the Cherokees*, Vicki Rozema has also written *Cherokee Voices: Early Accounts of Cherokee Life in the East* and *Voices from the Trail of Tears*. She is currently pursuing an advanced degree at the University of Tennessee.

This book is well-suited for inclusion in an academic or special library collection and can be considered essential reading for anyone with an interest in Native American history or historic sites.

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