

Cherokee Rose - Marge Tindal

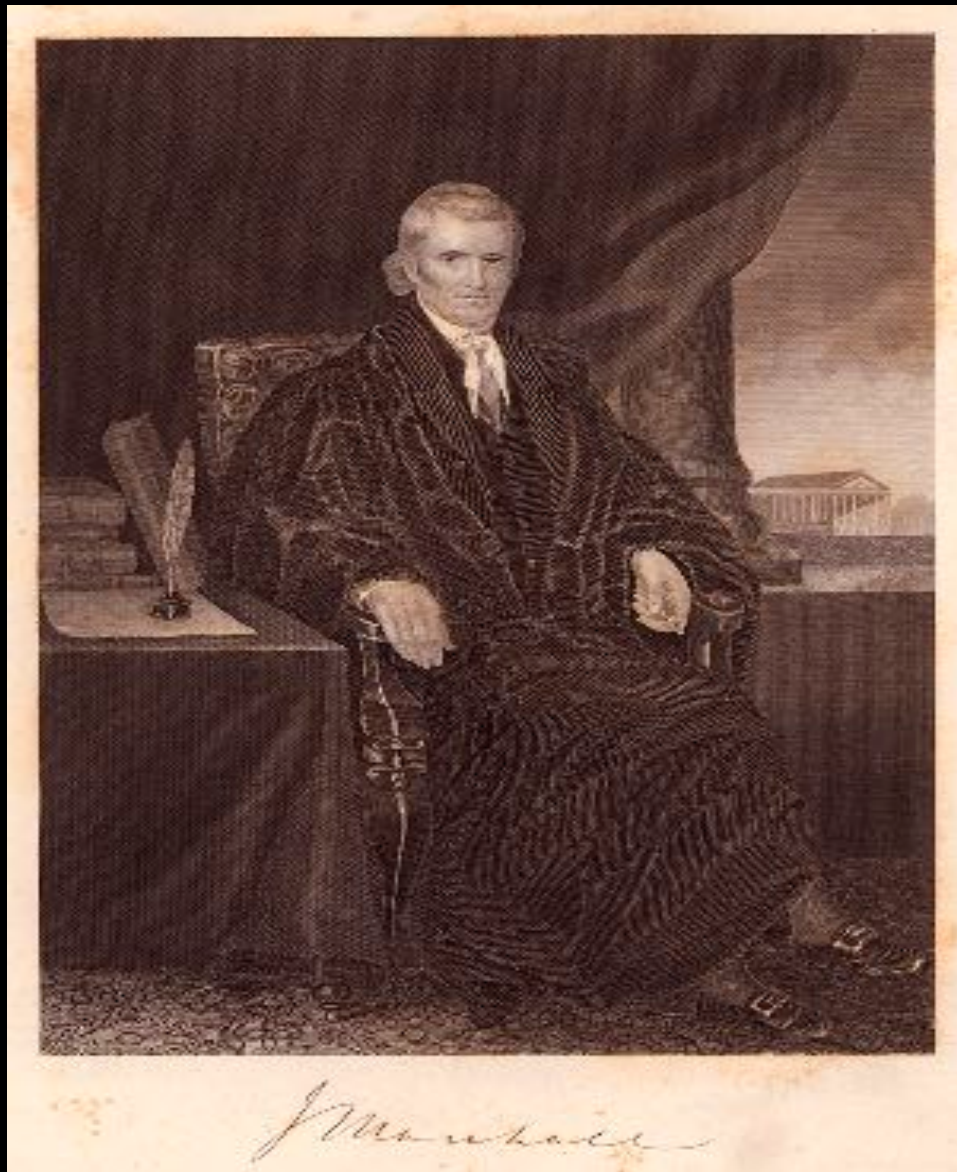
State flower of Georgia



INDIAN REMOVAL IN THE UNITED STATES







The Supreme Court and Chief Justice John Marshall ruled the Cherokee could keep their lands because of earlier federal treaties.

Inevitably, this movement led to clashes over land.





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"Nightfall on The Trail"



— Bell Route — Bengé Route — Roundup Routes



In 1838, the Georgia militia was ordered to force the Cherokee out of Georgia.



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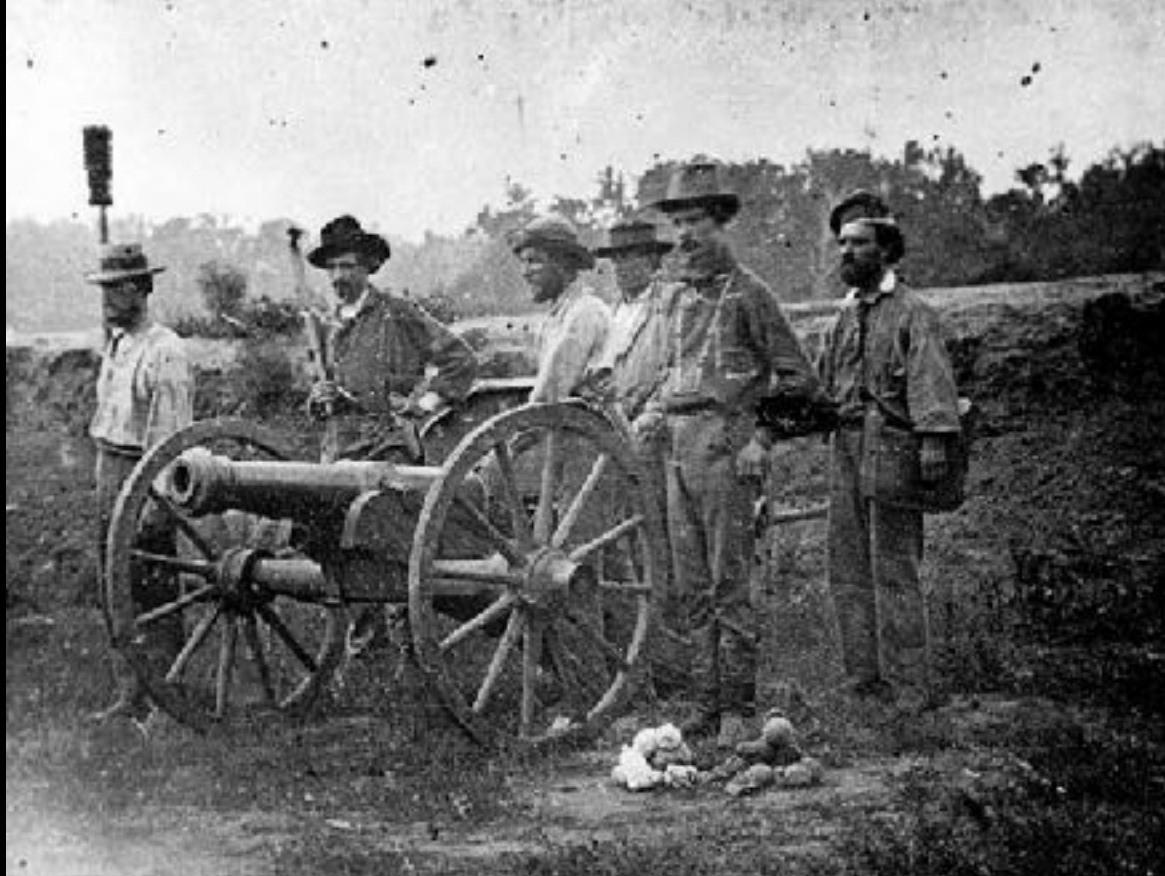
Painting by John Mix Stanley. Smithsonian Institution National Anthropological Archives.



17,000 Cherokees were brutally rounded up and marched to Indian territory in Oklahoma.

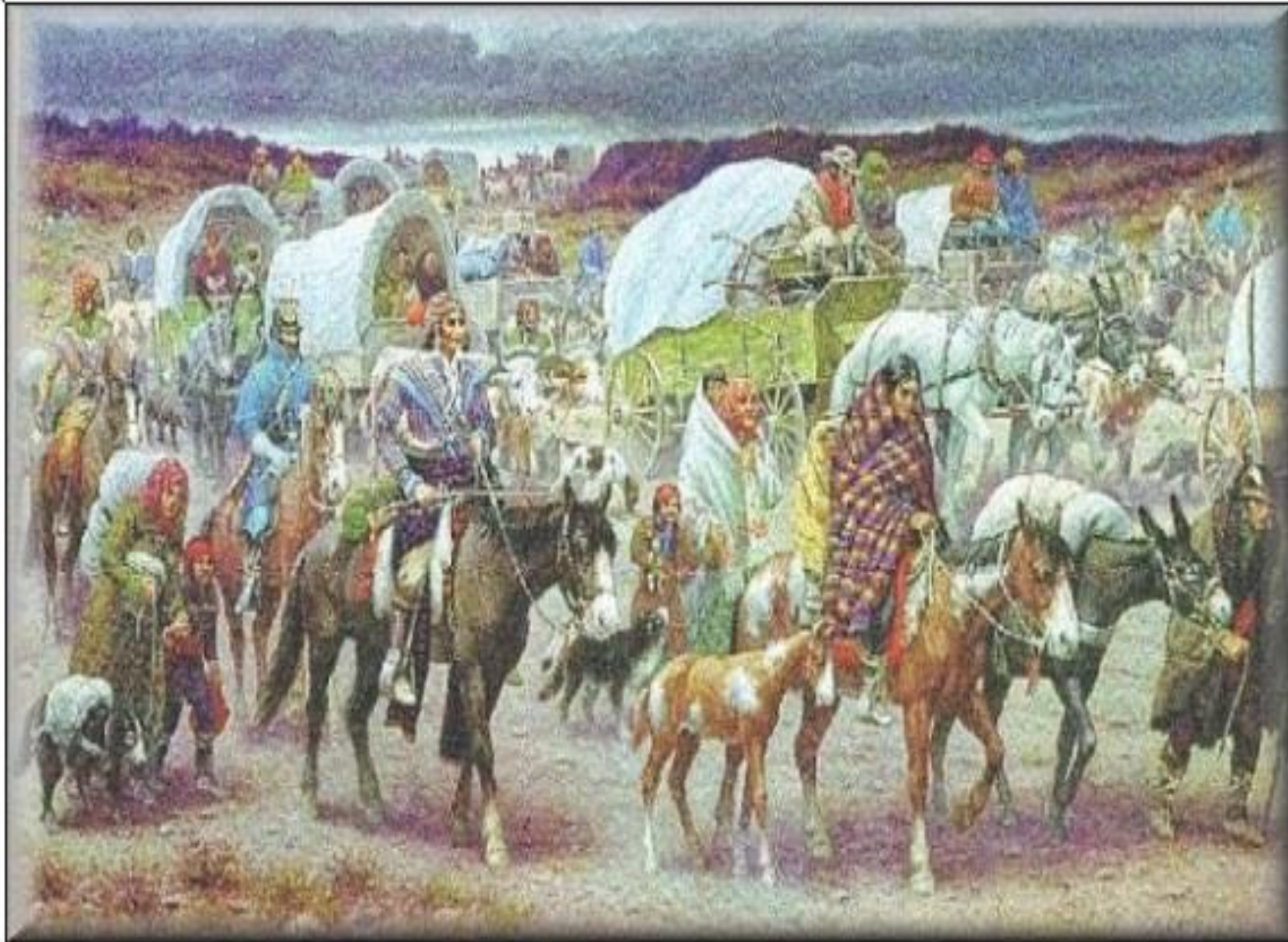
As many as 4,000 died along the "Trail of Tears".





"I fought through the Civil War and have seen men shot to pieces and slaughtered by the thousands, but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest work I ever knew."

Georgia Soldier involved in removal process







the Trail of Tears started in 1838

the mothers of the Cherokee were grieving

and crying so much

they were unable to help their children survive

the journey.

The elders prayed for a sign that would lift
the mother's spirits to give them strength



- From that day forward a beautiful new flower, a rose, grew wherever a mother's tear fell to the ground.
- The rose is white for the mother's tears.

Seven petals for seven tribes

- It has a gold centre - for the gold taken from the Cherokee lands
- seven leaves on each stem that represents the seven Cherokee clans that made the journey
- To this day - the Cherokee Rose prospers along the route of the Trail of Tears.
- White petals, a sign of those tears

- as many as 100,000 American Indians were removed from eastern homelands to locations west of the Mississippi River
- Most of this number were members of five tribes:
- Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminole

- few events in the history of any people were as tragic as these journeys were for the Indian tribes involved.
- the removal of the Cherokee during the late 1830s was so arduous that they subsequently named it Nunna daul Tsuny (Trail Where We Cried)
- it has become known in English as the "Trail of Tears."
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- Suffering and turmoil did not end on arrival in Indian Territory
- Many survived the hardships of imprisonment and travel only to face disease and /or starvation in the new homelands (Doran 1976, 499)

The Cherokee suffered from

- adverse weather
- mistreatment by soldiers
- inadequate food
- disease, bereavement, and the loss of their homes
- contributed to large population losses

- John G. Burnett, a soldier who participated in the removal, describes other incidents:
- *Men working in the fields were arrested and driven to the stockades. Women were dragged from their homes by soldiers whose language they could not understand
Children were often separated from their parents and driven into the stockades with the sky for a blanket and the earth for a pillow. And often the old and infirm were prodded with bayonets to hasten them to the stockades.*

- *In one home death had come during the night, a little sad faced child had died and was lying on a bear skin couch and some women were preparing the little body for burial. All were arrested and driven out leaving the child in the cabin. I don't know who buried the body.*

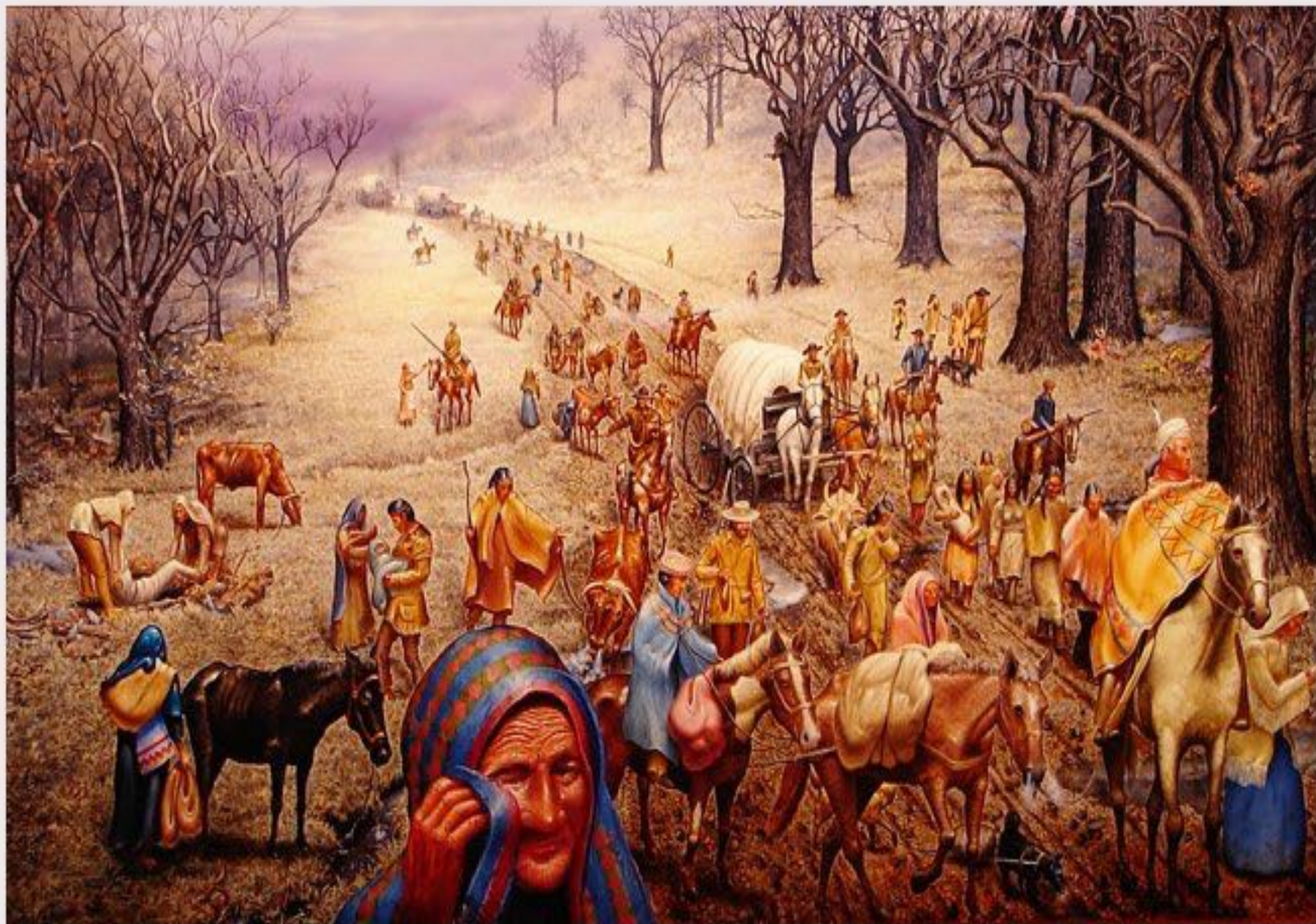
- *In another home was a frail Mother, apparently a widow and three small children, one just a baby. When told that she must go the Mother gathered the children at her feet, prayed an humble prayer in her native tongue, patted the old family dog on the head, told the faithful creature good-bye, with a baby strapped on her back and leading a child with each hand started on her exile.*

- *But the task was too great for that frail Mother. A stroke of heart failure relieved her sufferings. She sunk and died with her baby on her back, and her other two children clinging to her hands. (Burnett 1978, 183*

Russell Thornton, "Cherokee Population Losses During the Trail of Tears : A New Perspective and a New Estimate," *Ethno history* 31(November 1 1984):289-300

- Many scholars have claimed that some four thousand Cherokee men, women, and children, about one-fourth of the tribal population, eventually died as a result of the events surrounding their capture, detention, and journey along the Trail of Tears.

- demographic research suggests that Cherokee emigrants may have suffered a higher mortality rate than government records and historical studies have previously indicated.



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"The Trail of Tears"

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- "The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the blood of our ancestors."

She goes by the name
of Cherokee Rose.

A symbol of suffering
wherever she grows.

A flower so pretty,
in all of her glory shown.
A reminder of the tears shed
where she's grown.

The white of the flower
signifies the mothers tears.
On The Trail where they cried
while giving in to fears.

The gold of the center
to mark the land
taken from the Cherokee
and passed to another's hand.

Seven petals to form the flower,
for the seven Cherokee clans,
forced to walk The Trail
and to leave their land.

They call her Cherokee Rose.
A legend in the making.
The symbol of hope
on the walk they were taking.

Along the Trail Of Tears
you will see
The Cherokee Rose
in all her glory.

Something so pretty
to represent,
a tale so sad,
the misery long spent.

Cherokee Rose still grows
along The Trail Of Tears,
to remind us of the hope
they had through those years.

Cherokee Rose
with all your beauty retained,
you stand as a symbol
of what we will regain.

Cherokee Rose,
the symbol of peace.
Long may you flourish
until the pain does ease.

The pain of my people may ease ...
but will never cease.

