

One of the 10+ detachments was conducted by **Richard Taylor** with the assistance of **Red Watt Adair** and numbered approximately 1,030 people at departure. Traveling with this detachment was the Reverend Daniel Sabin Butrick and physician William Isaac Irwin Morrow. Both men kept journals during their journey, which are among the best sources of information about the Cherokees' experience along the Trail of Tears. Butrick was a Christian missionary to the Cherokee. Prior to removal, he worked at Brainerd Mission in present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. Both Butrick and his wife, Elizabeth, greatly opposed removal and stood in solidarity with the Cherokee as they were forcibly removed to the West.

During his journey to Indian Territory, Butrick wrote nearly every day in his journal. He commented on everything from the distance and locations traveled, to weather, to the hardships and deaths that occurred enroute, to the scenery and the people encountered along the way. Despite bouts of rain, ice, and snow, Butrick found Missouri an otherwise pleasant state. He frequently complimented the villages and towns and praised the kindness and generosity of many of the people he met. So impressed with the state, Butrick declared that "the very name [of Missouri] conveys delight to our minds."

While the Morrow journal is the only known documentary evidence linking a Cherokee detachment to the Snelson-Brinker site, it is highly likely that other detachments sought respite at the Brinker's homestead while enroute to Indian Territory.

Courtesy of Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University
and
Matt Parker <http://thomaslegion.net>

From: The Journal of Rev. Daniel S. Butrick, May 19, 1838 – April 1, 1839

Tuesday, [March 5th]

The rain had ceased, & the weather soon became pleasant, and we proceeded seven miles where we stopped for the night, the detachment having to draw fodder, corn, etc..

Wednesday, [March 6th]

Before starting, I visited a few sick children. We traveled about 10 miles, and camped for the night. When the detachment all came up, we found that two persons, an old man & a child had died on the way. The old man was by the name of Bird, and the child was a daughter of Archibald Fields, by the name of Mary.

Friday, [March 8th]

We learn that two children died last night in the camps, two or three years old. We stopped till after the burial of little Mary, and then went on with the detachment about 12 miles where we camped...

For more information see:

<https://www.snelsonbrinkerfoundation.org/trail-of-tears>