

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



This postcard shows the Big Spring in 1907. Today Big Spring is one of several Caldwell County sites on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Kentucky Historical Society, Ronald Morgan Kentucky Postcard Collection, Graphic5_Box15_267.

CALDWELL COUNTY: A STOP ON THE TRAIL OF TEARS

The forced removal of Cherokees from southeast Tennessee to Oklahoma brought them through Western Kentucky. In 1838, they stopped and camped on the Varmintrace Road in present day Princeton. The Varmintrace had evolved from a path forged by animals, and Native Americans had used it long before white settlers forced them to relocate. The 1,200-mile trip across the United States cost the Cherokees nearly one-third of their population.



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