

Trail of Tears



- 1 The route from Bridgeport to Waterloo looks much different today than it did in the 1830s. “It just touches a lot of people’s hearts to think of all the heartache that went on,” president of the local chapter of Forgiven Riders Bruce Bice said. While the commemorative Trail of Tears Motorcycle ride brings thousands of bikers together, it’s not exactly a cause for celebration. “When you think about the miles they walked, and the people dying along the way, it’s more something to cry about,” Iroquois Indian Gerald Webb said.
- 2 In 1830 more than 17,000 Indians were removed from the East of the US to Oklahoma. They had to walk along a route that is now called The Trail of Tears. This piece of history still casts a black cloud over a sunny memorial ride that covers some of the same miles. “We must not forget what happened to these people, so the 11 is important. The United States is built on history and you should never forget your history, be it good or bad,” Webb said. Not everyone has Native American blood flowing through their veins, but it doesn’t mean they don’t share the pain of the past. “For the most part the American people have forgotten and they just don’t care, I think that’s the major problem,” Rider Rob Cooper said. “Because those who don’t honor their history are doomed to repeat it, and this is a dark chapter we never want to repeat.”

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